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OCTOBER 2015

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KATE'S HANDY TIP

'Get colour confident and try brights!'

467
STYLE TRICKS
& bargain buys you can't miss!

How to...

Upcycle like a pro

Pep up your kitchen

Create a retro look

LOOK INSIDE!

6 REAL HOMES



FULL OF IDEAS ON A BUDGET!

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10 EASY CRAFTS TO TRY TODAY



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Hi there!

As we say goodbye to summer, now's the time to **hunker down for autumn** and get cosy for the cooler months ahead. It's my favourite time of year, when I can cuddle up on the sofa with my fur throw and watch the fire flickering (even if it is fake!). To get you in the mood, we've collected our **top picks for autumn** (page 12), and they're all under £35! Our animal cushions are perfect for this time of year, too (page 48), and I know you'll love our **clever craft revamps** on page 74.

If you're after a quick update, our **21 easy decorating ideas** on page 54 will give your home a refresh without breaking the bank. And, don't forget, it calls for colour when the weather gets a little dreary, so **take inspiration** from our cover star Kate (page 18) and see how she's added brights to her interior. Get your windows looking smart with this issue's **Style School** (page 63). It's packed with everything you need to know about curtains!

Plus, flick to page 80 if you're thinking about laying carpet in your home, turn to page 50 for invaluable loft-conversion advice, and don't miss nine ways to **get a retro look** on page 100!

We'd love to hear what you think of the issue, so do get in touch and send us your Instagram snaps, #SAHstylists. Until next time...

lizzie

Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor

**SEND US YOUR STYLING PICTURES ON
INSTAGRAM USING #SAHSTYLISTS –
WE LOVE TO SEE YOUR CREATIVE IDEAS!**



HAVE A GO

Get creative and give your home a more personal look by making your own curtains and upcycling old furniture, and remember to give our delicious recipes a try, too!



SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Get *Style at Home* delivered to your door and save up to 41% when you take out an annual subscription for just £16.99. See page 58 for more details. **PLUS** Get the latest issue and back issues on your tablet. Visit housetohome.co.uk/digital-editions/styleathome



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Tweet us your comments at **@styleathomemag** - We'd love to hear what you think of your favourite magazine!



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Delicious and simple family treats

SEW WHAT?

Pin down your perfect machine on page 114



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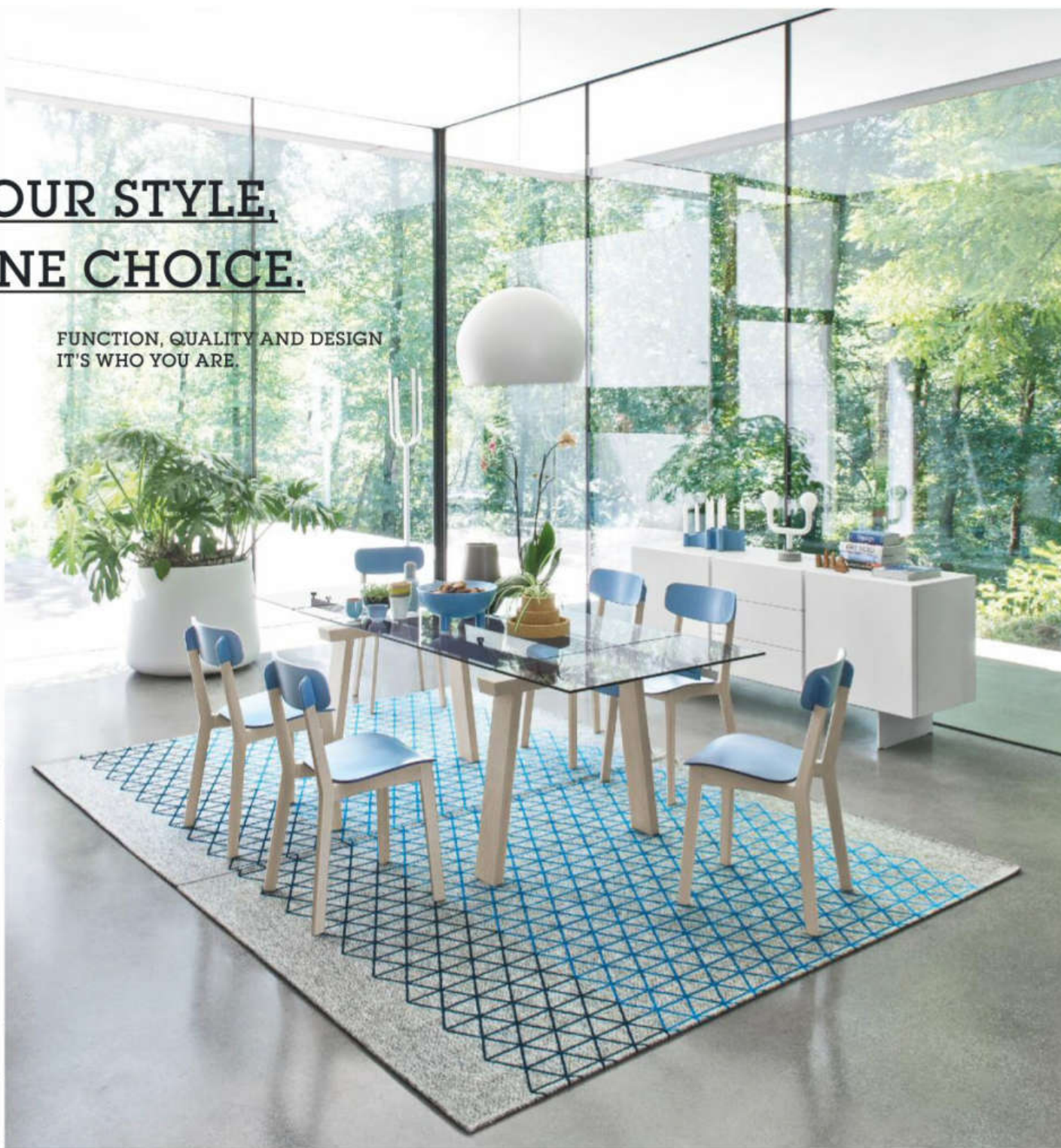
A simple revamp for wooden crates



YOUR STYLE. ONE CHOICE.

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Typical retail price: Levante table starting from £ 1,283 / Cream chairs starting from £ 168 /
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Meet the team

Every issue, we have a little extra help, thanks to our six *Stylists at Home*. Meet them here and find their comments in the magazine...

Katie Poole



ABOUT ME I'm 35 and I live with my husband Leo, 32, and our dog Shea. We live in a three-bedroom semi-detached in Staffordshire.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? Don't buy something if you can't envisage where it's going to go. I constantly have a huge box of items that I haven't found a place for yet.

Natalie Mason



ABOUT ME I'm 30 and I live in a three-bedroom semi in Lincolnshire with my husband Miles, 32, and children Ridley, four, and Vienna, two.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? Be patient! Before slapping on the paint it pays to spend time prepping surfaces for better results, even if it is the most boring part of the process!

Jill Reece



ABOUT ME I'm 57 and I live in a four-bedroom Victorian house in Liverpool with my partner Steve, 57, daughter Emma, 32, and three dogs.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? Always choose workmen that have been recommended by friends or family. That way, the quality of work will be up to the standard you're looking for.

Victoria Jackson



ABOUT ME I'm 30 and I live on my own in a two-bedroom top-floor apartment in West Yorkshire.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? Don't rush into buying furniture. I bought a lot of things on a whim when I first moved into my apartment, but I ended up selling a lot and investing in Mid-Century-style pieces.

Natalie Hydon



ABOUT ME I'm 35, and I live with my husband Dave, 35, and our children, Noah, four and Hollie, one, in a three-bedroom 1930s semi-detached in Wolverhampton.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? Don't throw anything out! Try and upcycle it by changing the colour or adding something to it to fit your scheme.

Charlotte Dennison



ABOUT ME I'm 35 and I live in a four-bedroom house in Humberside with my husband Martin, 40, and our children, Liv, five, and Henry, three.
WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT WHILE RENOVATING YOUR HOME? If the kitchen needs work, then do that first – it's expensive but everything flows from the kitchen. Plus, the dust from the work gets everywhere!

GET IN TOUCH

Have you just finished decorating your home or have you transformed one of your rooms from drab to fab? Email us at styleathome@timeinc.com and send us some photos and you could be featured in a future issue of *Style at Home*.



STYLE SKILLS
Give us a sneak peek of your home's new look

Become a Stylist at Home

Sign up to join our *Stylists at Home* club! You'll receive bonus offers and special treats, plus you could appear in a future issue. Email stylistsathome@timeinc.com

GET MORE *@styleathomemag*

Our pick of your best tweets, snaps and posts from our digital world – join us online today!



#askSAH

Q I would love to try pastel shades in my kitchen but I'm not sure where to start. I don't want the room to look too twee. Help!

JENNY MULDOCH, IPSWICH

If your kitchen cupboards are neutral, give the whole room a splash of gentle colour by installing soft pastel tiles behind the sink and oven – working as a splashback for both. Combine with a pastel-coloured Roman blind and pretty complementary accessories and you'll have lifted the look of your kitchen without making any major changes.

Got a burning styling question? Tweet it to our editor Lizzie @styleathomemag – she's on hand with all the answers!



Tweets we love

@themagpiegirl

Can't stop folding corners of @styleathomemag, storing ideas for my new home! :)

@DontCrampMyBlog

I found @cassiefairy in @styleathomemag, loving your bathroom darling!!

@stylemeperfect2

@styleathomemag Just got my first copy! Straight on email to sign up to the club!

WE'VE GOT MAIL



'I was given this dresser for free and really loved the shape of it. I painted it white and blue with kitchen and bathroom paint and covered the back of the open shelf with pretty vintage postcard wallpaper.'

VIKKI WHITE, SOMERSET



MOST REPINNED

Check out the *Style at Home* Pinterest page for lots more decorating inspiration and crafty ideas. Our fab Perfect Palette boards are packed full of colour combos to give your next decorating project a boost.

Head online and follow us today at pinterest.com/styleathomemag

This month...

Like us on Facebook and share your style tips, makeovers and crafty projects. Here's one of our latest posts – a sneak peak at our favourite living room looks for adding colour in autumn!



YOU DID IT!

@RAINONMY EYELASHES

I got a second-hand dressing table, sanded it, painted the drawers, varnished the drawers, painted the handles and spray painted the handles



@SAVVY-DECOR

We love this vibrant table makeover!

Share your latest crafty projects with us on [instagram.com/styleathomemag](https://www.instagram.com/styleathomemag) using #stylistsmakes or #stylistsrevamps



GET STYLE AT HOME ON YOUR TABLET!

DOWNLOAD THE NEW ISSUE DIRECT TO YOUR DEVICE

FROM [HOUSETOHOME.CO.UK/STYLEATHOME](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome)



WEEKLY TREAT

Can't wait for the next issue? Sign up for our new weekly email newsletter and have all the latest styling news, decorating ideas, amazing offers and so much more delivered straight to your inbox.

Sign up at housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist and get this week's issue!



Tune in

Waste not, want not! See our clever guide on transforming an old picture frame into a vintage-style tea tray with this easy-to-follow how-to video. Watch it now at housetohome.co.uk/videos



BLOG LOVIN'

This month, we chat to H&M's head of design Evelina Kravaev, and find out all about the latest new launches for Autumn/Winter. Check it out now and follow us for plenty of other exciting news, the latest trends, styling tips and makes at cushienumber.co.uk



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Help out hedgehogs

It's time to start preparing your garden for the coming winter, so get on top of things before the frosts come. Support wildlife during the colder months with a few simple steps; rake together a pile of fallen leaves at the end of the garden for hibernating animals or have a go at building your own hedgehog hibernation box.

CHECK OUT A NEW SHOP

Take a look at new interiors website **Suburban Living**. Sourcing inspiration from across the globe, this shop is a one-stop destination for all your interior needs. From furniture to home accessories, Suburban Living's collections suit any style and every budget, with next-day delivery. Bonus! Visit suburbanliving.co.uk



THIS MONTH'S pinboard

Our round-up of what to do, where to go and things to look out for this October

GET CREATIVE

For a spooky Halloween, get crafty and try making your own eerie decorations. For more ideas, see pinterest.com/styleathome/mag/make-it-halloween



SOFT TOUCH

Scrunch cushions, £55 each, Loaf



BRIGHT IDEA

Scatter cushions, from £25, Loaf



LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Loaf is launching its first Loaf Shack in London. Less showroom, more laid-back shopping paradise, customers are asked to make themselves comfortable in the 7,500sq ft space that will showcase pieces for every room in the house. Visit loaf.com



FAMILY DAY OUT

Enjoy frugal fun at this year's Festival of Thrift. Held at Lingfield Point, Darlington, on 26 and 27 September, this free creative event is packed full of workshops, talks and activities for all the family. The festival celebrates sustainable living and includes everything from stalls selling upcycled pieces to experts giving you tips on how to save money and make life more eco-friendly. Visit festivalofthrift.co.uk.



SHAPE UP
Circles cushion,
£19.99

SMARTLOOK
Speckle cushion,
£9.99; Ceramic
white bird, £3.99



**HANG
ON A
WALL**

**KEEP
IT TIDY**
Wooden
house, £12.99



**SLEEK
DESIGN**
Ceramic ridged
vase, £9.99;
Tate desk
lamp, £9.99



ON TIME
Retro calendar
clock, £6.99



BOWLED OVER
Metal bowl, £6.99

DUNELM

Grey matters

The new Elements range is stylish, chic and very now

The £35 EDIT

Shopping Editor Laurie has searched the high street and online for this month's brilliant home buys – all £35 or less



Want it now!

**SNAP UP THIS SHADOW
FLORAL MUG AND COASTER
AND DRINK YOUR
COFFEE IN STYLE**

£21, Ted Baker and Portmeirion

H&M

Snug style

Choose cosy textures that'll warm you up this autumn



**RICH
HUES**

TWO TONED
Braided storage
basket, £9.99



**FADED
ELEGANCE**
Vase, £6.99



SQUARE DEAL
Cushions (from
top), £9.99; £17.99;
and £4.99; (right),
£12.99, H&M



GOING FOR GOLD
Box, £12.99

MODERN
TOUCH

SHARP LOOK

Wire lantern, £24.99;
Elements framed
prints, £29.99 for
two, all Dunelm

3 of the best

PICTURE FRAMES

Beautiful enough to
display on their own – and
all from House of Fraser...

PERFECT
PATTERN

Art Deco
frame, £25

GLAM STYLE

Speckled glass
frame, £30

EXOTIC
TWIST

Metal Alhambra
frame, £20



MIX IT UP

Lozi rug, £35;
chevron boxes, £25
for two, all Very

Stylists
at Home

KATIE SAYS

'A new picture
frame is a simple,
cost-effective
way to add
real impact to
a room. I'm
getting lots of
photos printed in
black and white
so the frames
can stand out in
their own right.'

VERY

My favourite buys

Get the urban look with sleek
and stand-out accessories

BOLD
PRINTS

PLAN IT
Chalkboard
calendar, £25

LIGHT ON

Tampa light
pendant, £25

WILD
THING

Snakeskin
cushion, £12



Cushion CORNER

This month, we're all about luxury



ALL-OUT LUXE

Matthew Williamson beaded cushion, £22, Debenhams



SHADES OF GREY

Akerkulla cushion cover, £6, Ikea



CHIC TOUCH

Fan jewelled cushion, £30, House of Fraser



CLASSIC BEAUTY

Velvet tile cushion, £9, George Home



Check out our blog cushienumber.co.uk for even more affordable, must-have accessories.



SAY IT IN STYLE
Wall art, £12

WOODLAND WONDER
3D moose head, £30

SAINSBURY'S

Log cabin cool

Go back to the wilderness with cosy fur, plaid and rustic buys



RED GLOW
Camping-style lantern, £20

CALL OF THE WILD

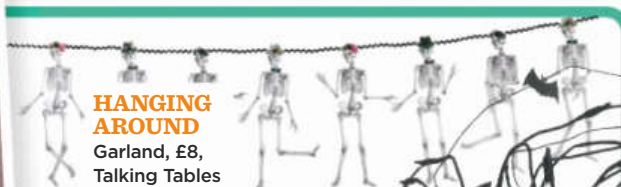


SAFE STORAGE
Faux-leather brown vintage suitcase, £25

MOOD LIGHTING
Candles, £6 each, The Contemporary Home



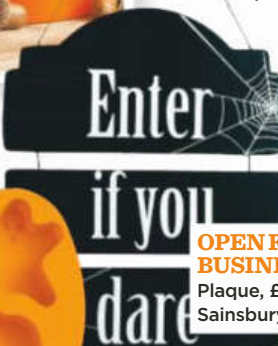
TRICK OR TREAT
Ghost cake mould, £8.49, Premier Housewares



HANGING AROUND
Garland, £8, Talking Tables

ON MY RADAR Halloween

Create a haunted house with spooky touches



OPEN FOR BUSINESS
Plaque, £4, Sainsbury's



NIGHT LIGHT
Light-up tree, £10, Sainsbury's

HEADS UP
Skull, £18, The Contemporary Home



CHECK MATE

Red pendant, £22;
orange throw,
£25; check throw,
£16, all Sainsbury's



Give your living space an AUTUMNAL LOOK

**NUTTY NUMBER**

Squirrel table lamp,
£29, Very

+

**FALL FOR IT**

Golden leaves dish,
£12.99, HomeSense

+

**WHAT A HOOT!**

Night Owl wallpaper, £18.98
per roll, Wallpaperdirect

NEXT**Serene space**

Use Asian-inspired accessories
for an Oriental flair

**TOUCH
OF THE
EXOTIC****SUBTLE
PATTERN**

Embossed
wooden mats,
£22 for four

ON DISPLAY

Vases, from
£12 for two

**SIT BACK**

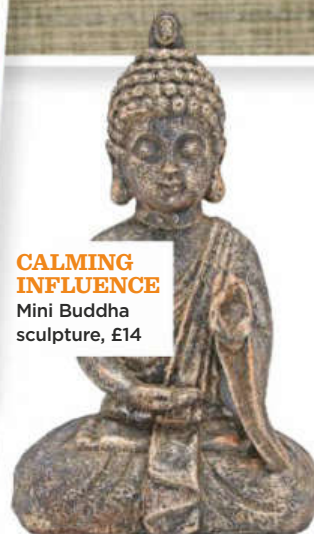
Cushions,
£16 each

**Stylists
at Home****VICTORIA SAYS**

'To go with the fab Sainsbury's buys, I'd add sheepskin throws on the end of the bed, and team it with beaten copper bowls. For a bedside table, wooden crates would look great.'

**CALMING
INFLUENCE**

Mini Buddha
sculpture, £14

**METALLIC MIX**

Metal candelabra, £28

**Buy it, style it!**

**SPELL OUT A WORD OR
SENTENCE WITH
THESE COOL LIGHTS –
YOU GET 60 STICKY
LETTERS TO USE!**

Scrabble lights, £24.99, Utility Design



YOU MIGHT NOT RECOGNISE US, WE'VE LOST A BIT OF WIDTH

The new standard
sized Rangemaster.



Built from experience



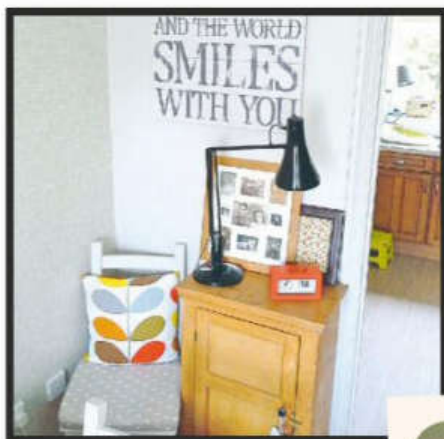
Look what you styled...

PRETTY DISPLAYS

Click @styleathomemag on Instagram and tag your super-styled pictures with #SAHstylists for your chance to be featured right here

COSY CORNER

Group together a pick of your favourite finds in a corner, as @choppy_chic has done. Start with a side table or chair, and then add smaller accessories to tie the look together and add interest. Include a lamp to light up your display in the evenings.



RUSTIC ROOM

Channel a soft vintage-vibe by introducing pretty accessories and linens into your bedroom styling. @natyshas vintagehome has chosen dainty floral prints on her bedding and hung rustic wicker hearts around the bed for a country-themed finishing touch.



GO COASTAL

Be inspired by the coast and style up a nautical corner in your bathroom just like @ornamentalelephant. Display shells and pebbles and bring in soft blues to add colour. Hints of rope or seaside motifs will help tie the look together.



Tea trolley

Bring together a coordinated display of your favourite crockery and glassware, to keep on hand in the dining room. Arrange them on a vintage trolley for a country-chic look and make the most of the pieces that are too pretty to be hidden away! We love this idea, @sians_vintage_home – can we come over for tea?

FAB FRAME

Try making your own photo display, like @jessykins47. This zigzag design, made using string and an old frame, is perfect for hanging a selection of snaps and can be customised with colour to suit your space.



We also want to see your upcycling pics! Share them using hashtags #stylists revamps or #stylistsmakes

'I love to mix and MATCH COLOURS'

Stylist at Home Kate, 38, explains why buying a new-build was the perfect move for her and her young family

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Kate Beer, 38, and I'm a photographer and picture editor (katebeer.co.uk). I live with my two daughters, Lola, 9, Poppy, 7, and our cat, Rocket.

MY HOME A four-bedroom new-build terrace in Stroud, Gloucestershire, which I bought in April 2014. It was constructed on the site of a former hospital, and was designed by Kevin McCloud's company, HAB, in partnership with the housing organisation, GreenSquare Group. The estate is built on the ideas of community, sustainable living and being environmentally efficient.

WHEN I MOVED IN The house was a complete blank canvas with white walls, but it was very light and spacious. It just needed a bit of thought on how to decorate the space to make it feel more like a home.

AND NOW I chose engineered-oak flooring for the living spaces to add warmth, and I used wallpaper, tiles and textiles to add colour and pattern.

STYLE TIP Trust your own taste – a look doesn't need to be permanent. I mix and match colours and patterns using artwork, cushions and throws, but I know I can change it if I want to.

OUR
COVER
STAR!



Do it

Add character
with colourful
details

PAGE 26

PICK A PALETTE

'I like how this Home Sweet Home rug from Graham and Green pulls the room together, from the window seat cushions to the bookshelf accessories'

STYLE TIP

'Shake it up! Create a vibrant scheme with bright accessories'

BRIGHT IDEA

'I love to colour code my books – it's an easy way to instantly add style to a space'



When I started thinking about moving house, the last thing on my mind was buying a new-build on an estate in the middle of Stroud,' says Kate. 'However, having previously renovated a Victorian property and being fully aware of the pros and cons of taking on such a project, I decided to be open-minded about my potential new home.'

I heard about the estate while it was being built, and I was intrigued by the idea it proposed to the community. Its mix of affordable housing and shared outdoor spaces appealed to me as I knew I'd be able to bring up my young daughters, Lola and Poppy, in a safe and happy neighbourhood. I didn't really think a brand-new property was quite right for me but I decided to go and view the showhome anyway. The moment I walked through the door, I loved the sense of space and light achieved with the high ceilings and open-plan design. But at the same time, the house was still just a shell and wasn't finished, so I had to really expand my imagination to envisage how it could work as a family home.

Decision made

A problem with the Victorian terrace we were living in helped change my mind. I discovered a leak in the kitchen, and as a consequence the whole floor had to be replaced. When I was told that the leak was due to an old sewage pipe, I knew it was time for a change. There's something lovely about finding a wreck >>

3 style buys

PLUMPED UP

Stripe cushion with pom poms, £26, Oliver Bonas



FLOOR FILLER

Bloomsbury large geometric wool rug, 170 x 240cm, £450, Habitat



STACK THEM UP

Crate mate, £125, Loaf



OFF THE WALL

'I fell in love with this Mixed Folk Tile wallpaper by Louise Brody before I even knew where to put it'



'MY NEXT PROJECT WILL BE TO WALLPAPER A SET OF BOOKSHELVES – THERE'S ALWAYS A WEBSITE THAT CAN HELP YOU THROUGH THE STEPS'

DOUBLE DUTY

'I don't have an office, but this lean-to desk in the sitting room is the perfect compromise – it's practical and looks good, too'



Make it

Create your own crate bookshelf

PAGE 28





ALL WHITE

'I chose neutral mosaic tiles so that I wasn't tied into a particular colour scheme for this room'

GREAT IDEA

'Place a table in the kitchen to create more space in your living areas'



CUTE DISPLAY

'I like using everyday storage ideas to create interesting little corners'

» of a house and seeing it take shape as renovations take place, but with a busy lifestyle, moving into a ready-made space suddenly seemed very appealing.

I decided to take the plunge and made an offer on the house, which was accepted immediately. The thing that spurred me on was that there was a real community feel to the estate. There's a communal garden in the middle where all the children play together, which the girls' love, and there's a natural wildlife corridor that runs through the centre. There are allotments for the residents and even apple trees and fruit shrubs that we're all free to pick from.

Choosing off plan

Another thing that attracted me was that the house had been well insulated, triple glazed and is environmentally friendly. I love period properties, but there's always a long list of never-ending problems, whether it's mould, draughts or leaking roofs. Our Victorian property was dark

Stylists at Home



JILL SAYS

'I love the colours in the rug, and I'm always keen to create extra storage at home. I'd use the space under Kate's window seat to store all the things that need to be kept handy but out of sight!'

with small rooms, so the thought of a warm, bright space was very inviting. I must admit, it's quite strange buying a property from a plan because you can't quite envisage how the final layout will look, and scale is difficult to gauge.

When we finally moved in, it wasn't quite what I expected. The room dimensions differed from my expectations, and the sockets and light fittings hadn't been placed where I would have chosen. Also, the house wasn't quite finished. There were dusty concrete floors throughout so we had to wait a few weeks before we could fully unpack. It did mean, however, that I could choose to put down engineered-oak flooring, and I was able to pick the tiles for the bathroom and kitchen, too.

House to home

When we moved in, I really wanted to inject some personality into the house. But the main problem I faced when thinking about decorating was that there was no »

PICTURE PERFECT

'This simple shelf allows me to alter the feel of the room by changing the pictures as often as I like'

GREAT IDEA

'Use Pinterest for simple project ideas that will really personalise your home'



» focus to the rooms. In a period property there's often a fireplace that creates an anchor for arranging furniture, but with this house, there was nothing like that, which made it harder to create a homely space.

I didn't want to simply paint all the walls in bright colours, but I needed to get rid of the feeling of living in white boxes. I used Pinterest to gather ideas and colour schemes, and the first thing I did was wallpaper some areas to create feature walls – the girls loved choosing their own funky patterns. It was then easy to team my simple furniture with bright, bold accessories to add my own style. The best thing about using cushions, wall art and rugs is that I can change the feel of each room by just moving items around.

Well designed

Now that we're settled, I love the way the house has been designed around family living and nothing feels cramped. The kitchen is more than big enough for

Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS
'The bright prints on the cushions look great but can be costly if you need to buy a lot! I would scout around in charity shops for material I like and make my own – it costs a lot less.'

a dining table, so the sitting room can double up as a home office and still feel spacious. There are also plenty of built-in cupboards that are great for hiding clutter.

I've had to work hard to personalise this house to make it my own, and I'm still moving furniture around to find the best use of the space. However, rather than worrying about structural work and repairs, I've been able to concentrate on the decor instead. Plus, the girls love the freedom the move has given them. I wanted this house to be thoughtful and evolve with time. It's also nice knowing that everything is brand new and in good working order and nothing will break down – for a long while at least anyway!



Get clicking and go to housetohome.co.uk/styleathome for more inspiring house tours.

FASHION PARADE

'Poppy keeps her prettiest dresses on display to express her personality'



SLEEK & CHIC

'This the least colourful room in the house. It's a serene, calming white space'

Buy it

Get the look with bright laundry baskets

PAGE 25

Hit the shops

Where to go and what to buy to get Kate's style

★ **LAYER ON LAYER** Cushions and rugs are ideal for adding a pop of instant colour, and Kate has plenty to perk up her property. Take a look at the Agnes range from Habitat.

★ **READING CORNER** Not only functional, but funky, too, we love the design of Kate's slot-together bookshelves, £200, Unto This Last.

★ **SAY CHEESE!** Be picture perfect and create your own gallery by hanging some of your favourite photographs from Ikea's Dignitet curtain wire, £10, using bird clips, £6.25 for 16, Exit Interiors.

★ **ROLL IT OUT** Follow Kate's lead and wallpaper a feature wall using a bold design to add immediate style to a room. Homebase has a well-priced selection and we think its Bubble Gum Dots Wallpaper, £12.99 per roll, would look great in a children's bedroom.

★ **MIX IT UP** Add splashes of colour to an all-white kitchen with lots of bright accessories, such as the Bärbar tray, £5, Ikea. We also love Kate's yellow Kenwood Kmix kettle, £59.50 from Tesco Direct.

'IF THE SPACE YOU HAVE IS BOX-LIKE, KEEP MOVING THINGS AROUND - IT CAN TAKE TIME TO FIND THE RIGHT LAYOUT'

ONE OF A KIND

'I picked up this retro sewing box from eBay - I love its quirky eclectic look'

4 million
windows covered



fast free
sample service



3 year
guarantee



abbey cornflower roman blind

MADE TO MEASURE, MADE SIMPLE

It's so easy to make your home feel loved; let us show you how. Come and choose from over 5,000 made to measure blinds and curtains, in every style imaginable. Plus we've got free samples, super fast delivery and a three-year guarantee to put your mind at ease.

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COOL
CHEVRON
DESIGN**£20**

Add a playful touch with the Firth printed laundry bag, HABITAT

£6

The Horizon pop-up bin is perfect for a purse-friendly update, WILKO

£18

A Minky multi-coloured stripe hamper is both practical and pretty, VERY

STYLE SECRETS

Pick the perfect one for you

LOCATION, LOCATION

Decide where in the room you're going to put your new basket, so you can choose which shape will best fit. Pick nifty rectangular or corner designs to fit in tight spots.

WEIGHTY MATTER

Check how much laundry your basket can hold and choose one that's big enough for your family. Go for a design with a lid to help contain unsightly overspills.

BASKET WORK

Choose a practical basket; one with handles will be easier to carry laundry to and from the washing machine, and one with ventilation is best suited to store damp clothes.

Buy Kate's style LINEN BASKETS

Beat the washday blues with a bright and cheery new laundry bin

**£10**

This small cotton-blend laundry bag is ideal for trips to the launderette, NEXT

CHIC
GLOBAL
LOOK

The often-forgotten laundry basket plays an essential role in every household and needn't be overlooked when it comes to style. Whether you keep yours in the bathroom, bedroom or utility room, treat your home to a chic new design that will cheer up your space and keep your smalls out of sight. Take a look at our pick of the top bins that will have you looking forward to laundry day (well, maybe...!).

**£59**

The Coda basket earns its keep in both looks and practicality, OLLI ELLA

**£18**

Pick the Linea Capitan bag to channel a coastal vibe, HOUSE OF FRASER

**£30**

Go for the Park Rose Pale Blue design for a feminine touch, CATH KIDSTON



Like Kate, COLOUR YOUR HOME BEAUTIFUL

Splash a little colour around your rooms – even the smallest addition can make a difference and give your space a whole new personality

Adding pops of colour to your home can really draw the eye to features or accessories within individual rooms. But don't limit it to paint ideas; you could coordinate coloured accessories, introduce tiles or textiles, upholster a chair or simply display fresh flowers.

If your decor feels too neutral, a simple spruce-up with colour can be all you need to get inspired about your home again.

Small changes matter

There's no need to dramatically alter your style; in fact, a neutral background can be a perfect base for bringing colour into a room. A good starting point is to see what accessories you already have. Is there an obvious look or theme you lean towards? Seek out pieces to add to a collection and emphasise the colour. An arrangement of ornaments in the same hue always looks impressive, so it can be useful to sort out ones that don't quite make the grade, and invest in a more interesting display.

Go for the glow

If you feel ready for a dramatic change, look at where the problems are and how to remedy them. If you have a busy room, strip it down to the basics, chose a pale palette and clear out unwanted pieces, to see where best to focus blocks of colour. It could be just one wall with bright pictures on it, or a makeover on some shelving. As you probably won't want to change your furniture, accommodate pieces into the colour scheme, or have a creative session and paint cupboards, picture frames or update wooden chairs.

Paint effects

Using paint is one of the quickest ways to bring colour into a room. But rather than walls, consider areas that often get overlooked. Painting a ceiling in a strong shade can create amazing results when combined with plain walls, or pinpoint selected areas to use colours in, even painting certain kitchen unit doors a one-off shade.



GIRLIE TOUCH
Delicious Pink kitchen
and bathroom matt
emulsion from £25.99
for 2.5ltr, Crown

OOHLALA!
Use coordinating
upholstery and bedding
to create a strong theme



Simple upholstery

There's no need to limit colourful textiles to chairs or curtains – a headboard upholstered in either one colour or divided into blocks can work wonders in a plain bedroom. You can dress the bed with suitable bedlinen and throws to match the headboard. For a more decorative scheme, a boldly patterned fabric can look great, but keep bedding plain for a restful space.

REDLIGHT
Hang pendants
at different
heights over
a dining table



**RAINBOW
BRIGHT**
Tile part of your
wall in one or
more colours
to break up a
white scheme



Add lampshades

Lighting is key to your room in so many ways, not only for creating an atmosphere, but to add colour and structure to the decor. Multiple shades hung from one point offer texture and colour, and look particularly striking dropping down from a white ceiling. Look for drip-edged shades in assorted colours for extra impact.

Line of tiles

The trend in bathrooms tends to be for predominantly white suites, so tiling and flooring are the areas that can be easily updated with colour. A subtle approach can make an enormous difference. Tiles in particular can be an effective way to highlight small zones of colour.



Get even more decorating ideas – sign up to our free newsletter, housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist

KEEP COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS IN MIND WHEN CHOOSING SHADES, BUT PUSH THEM TO THE LIMITS FOR MORE SPECTACULAR RESULTS

Paint your shelves

This is a simple but very effective idea, especially if the shelves run from ceiling to floor. Better still if you have matching units either side of a chimney breast for maximum impact. A bright background shade will make colourful accessories stand out, too



Statement chair

If you love fabrics, this is your chance to pick out the most eye-catching design and upholster a favourite chair to create a standalone piece. A really busy fabric can be too much for curtains or for a whole furniture suite, but used on a single chair, footstool or beanbag, it can be exactly the right injection of colour a room needs.



SHELF LIFE
Zingy colours
look great against
crisp white



Make Kate's RUSTIC CRATE BOOKSHELF

Follow Kate's lead and channel an industrial chic vibe with our upcycled bookshelf made from vintage crates

Create a stylish and unique display shelf for your books and decorative trinkets using two wooden fruit crates, in three super-easy steps.

Then why not try painting the wooden crates to fit in with your interior scheme, too?

HOW TO

TAKES 5HRS COST £28.57

- * 2 x 50cm wooden fruit crates, £10.79 each, Country Baskets
- * Coarse and fine sandpaper
- * Gorilla glue, £5, B&Q
- * Castor wheels, £1.99 for four, eBay
- * Screws

1 Use coarse sandpaper to rub over the wooden slats on each crate and remove any rough edges. Repeat inside and out with each crate until the wood is smooth and wipe away any dust. Go over again with fine sandpaper if necessary.

2 Stand one crate on its side, so the opening is facing outwards. Apply a line of Gorilla glue to each slat along the top of this crate and carefully place the second crate on top. Line them up quickly before the glue starts to set, then stand them upright with some heavy books on top until the glue has dried.

3 Once the glue has dried, lay the now attached crates onto a flat surface. Working on the bottom of the crate, attach a castor wheel to each corner using small screws.



**LESS
THAN
£29**

FINISHING TOUCHES

Albury jute sack table lamp, £39.99, Dunelm. Vintage bicycle postcard, 60p, Paperchase

NEW TO UPCYCLING? THIS SIMPLE PROJECT IS PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS AND CAN BE COMPLETED IN AN AFTERNOON



Karndean
Designflooring

Crayon vs. Karndean: Anna's Story

"I remember a week after we'd had Karndean laid in the lounge we had family visit. The kids were in the living room colouring, and I walked in to find a great big yellow line of crayon across the floor!"

"But I needn't have worried because it cleaned off so easily - it took less than five minutes and I learnt a lesson that day!"

Watch Anna's story at:
karndean.com/anna



Classic and durable, Karndean is perfect for your home, giving you a practical and beautiful looking floor.

Ready to start your
Karndean story?
www.karndean.com



PICTURE PERFECT

'I gave this old frame a new lease of life with a lick of paint'



Make it

A pretty pom pom cushion like this
PAGE 40



MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Marie Burden, 32, and I live with my husband Chris, 32, and our son Isaac, nine months. Chris works as a commissioned officer in the Royal Air Force, and I have my own interior design business, cobaltblueinteriors.com.

MY HOME A 1930s three-bedroom house at RAF Benson, Oxfordshire, which we rented in 2012.

WHEN WE MOVED IN The house was a blank canvas and painted magnolia throughout. It lacked personality and needed a lot of changes to make it feel homely.

AND NOW We've made the house light and airy - people can't believe it's military accommodation!

STYLE TIP Look for second-hand furniture that you can upcycle for a fraction of the cost of buying new.

'I got creative



WITH UPCYCLING'

BOLD AND BRIGHT

'I love these fun cushions from Bombay Duck. My pom pom throw is from Dunelm and is great to snuggle up with on the sofa'

GREAT IDEA

'Zingy cushions add a pop of colour to lift a cream sofa'

Stylist at Home Marie, 32, has transformed a military rental property into a welcoming, vibrant family home

Living in rented military housing can be tricky when it comes to decorating,' says Marie. 'You have to return the house to exactly how it was when you moved in, so any alterations must be reversible. Because of this, most people steer clear of things like changing floors, removing fireplaces or even wallpapering, as these jobs are simply too much of a big task and expense when you eventually have to move out.

But we love the lifestyle and sense of community that comes with living here and we feel lucky to have a great property, surrounded by open fields, and to be in close proximity to lively towns such as Henley-on-Thames – it's the perfect mix!

Deciding on decor

We started off by giving the living and dining rooms a complete contemporary update and making them feel fresher. We painted all the walls white and replaced the light switches and sockets with modern finishes. We then bought new furniture, accessories and soft furnishings. I love brands such as Made.com, HomeSense and Ikea, so I have a real mix of pieces.

I wanted to inject splashes of colour in each room, so I decided to go for a bold feature wall in turquoise to frame the fireplace in the living room. To add interest to the dining room walls, I chose a playful butterfly design wall sticker from Rockett St George. As much as I love wallpaper, it's too much of a hassle to remove when we leave, so stickers are a great alternative. The copper pendant in the dining room is from B&Q and is one of my favourite pieces; people have said it looks designer!

I like quite a few different styles when it comes to interiors, so I'm lucky to have lots of rooms to experiment in. I love modern design with pops of colour but also a country shabby chic look with painted white furniture and pretty pastels.

Clever choices

While we weren't doing any structural work to the house, we still faced obstacles when it came to decorating and had >>



3 style buys

COPPER CRUSH

Coop pendant in copper, £29, Made.com



A TOUCH OF TEAL

Up Beat matt emulsion, £19.49 for 2.5ltr, Crown



THINK PINK

Coco Crochet pouffe in pink, £49, Very.co.uk



FREEZE FRAME

'I painted the grey area around the photo frames on the wall to help group them together'



GREAT IDEA

'Add an easy-fit pendant to instantly transform your scheme'



TIME FOR TEA

'I chose pastel accessories to help brighten up the kitchen'



LIGHT THE WAY

'I love the Alfred lamp from Made.com - it makes a great feature in the living room'





SMART STYLING

Resist the urge to go mad on accessories – just choose a few standout pieces instead

‘AS WE CAN’T ALTER THE KITCHEN, IT’S ALL ABOUT WORKING WITH

WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE’

» to think carefully about our choices and how to reverse them when the time comes. One thing we had to consider was how to select colour schemes that would work with the brown-beige carpets; this is why I went for light and bright decor to lift the neutral scheme and inject some character.

We faced the mammoth task of having to buy everything at once – having just paid for a wedding and honeymoon! – so I had to be creative with updating furniture and finding good deals. I bought a lot of furniture on eBay, then upcycled various items using Annie Sloan chalk paints and spray paints. My favourite piece is the wall art in the living room that I created by painting an old mirror frame. I removed the glass, painted the frame bright turquoise, then hung it on the wall to surround a fuchsia stag-head print. I then styled this corner with the Bouji chair from Made.com.

I also revamped the wooden furniture in Isaac’s nursery with Annie Sloan chalk paint in Pure and French Grey, then added stencils and vintage-style glass drawer pulls. The furniture here only cost £70 in total and to buy it new would have cost hundreds, so I’m really pleased with how it turned out. I made the little hanging »

Stylists at Home



CHARLOTTE SAYS

‘I think painting the grey strip to highlight the photo frames looks great. I also love Annie Sloan chalk paint and use it to upcycle things at home, too. It’s a quick transformation that requires no preparation.’

ON REFLECTION

‘I love the shabby chic look and this vintage-style mirror works well for bringing light into the hall’

Buy it
Revamp your hall with a stylish console table
PAGE 36





GREAT IDEA

'Team pale blue bedroom walls with florals for a pretty country look'

PRETTY PASTELS

'I added textured throws and cushions in a pastel palette to the bed'

'LAYER UP YOUR BED WITH CUSHIONS AND SUMPTUOUS THROWS FOR A LUXURIOUS, BOUDOIR FEEL'

CRAFT CORNER

'I found the wire bird display in TK Maxx'



Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS

'Box frames are great for showing off keepsakes and they don't have to cost the earth. For a simple way to add colour and pattern to your kitchen use tea towels and storage jars to help brighten up the space.'

» shelf unit from an old champagne crate by painting it and then drilling two holes at the top to tie a grey ribbon through.

Finishing touches

As we aren't able to alter the structure of any room, it was all about making do with what we had and using accessories to add character. The bathroom upstairs is basic but we use colourful towels to add a softer touch and tie in with the rest of the house. I bought a tall storage unit for our bathroom as a way of displaying pretty trinkets and to add handy extra storage.

The limits of military accommodation mean you have to be clever with your ideas. I used magazines, books, art galleries and Pinterest to gather lots of inspiration to help us get the look we wanted.'



Get clicking and go to housetohome.co.uk/styleathome for more inspiring house tours.



Hit the shops

How to buy Marie's style

★ **COLOUR COMBOS** A soft pastel palette gives the guest bedroom a calm vibe. She paired Colours matt emulsion paint in Duck Egg, £13.94 for 2.5ltr from B&Q, with pink accents and accessories.

★ **SITTING PRETTY** We love Marie's contemporary dining chairs and table. Try the Oppeby table and six chairs set, £510, Ikea, for a similar modern look.

★ **SMART SAVINGS** Marie found lots of great bargains online. Head over to Gumtree and Freecycle, too, to pick up preloved furniture that you can revamp.

Do it

Make quirky displays from your treasures

PAGE 38

ON SHOW

'I love having trinkets and memorable pieces on show - these are my wedding shoes'



WORDS & STYLING CASSIE PRYCE PHOTOGRAPHS OLLY GORDON

INTO THE BLUE

Shades of blue in the bedroom create a calm colour scheme. The bedding is from Marks & Spencer

*Always,
Kiss Me Goodnight*

CUTE ADDITION

'The wall unit is made from an old champagne crate and is perfect for Isaac's favourite toys'





£140

Pick this sleek number for a contemporary finish. Liatorp console table in Grey, IKEA

SMART LOOK



£189.99

Make the most of handy storage. Catalan two-drawer console table, WORLDSTORES

Buy Marie's style CONSOLE TABLES

Make a statement in your entrance with a stylish new hall table



For most homes, the hall is the first room guests will see, so make sure yours is dressed to impress. A console table is the perfect way to add a focal point, while offering practical storage.

We've rounded up 10 of our favourite designs, starting from as little as £79, to help you and your hall make a great first impression.



£150

Set a Scandi scene with a simplistic design. Tatsuma table in White/Walnut, HABITAT



£292.49

Choose this playful design for a pop of colour. Alchemy console table, SUBURBAN LIVING

STYLE SPLURGE



£95

Introduce a touch of luxury to your decor. Malden mirrored console, SWEETPEA & WILLOW



£169.95

Add vintage charm to your hall. Portsmouth half-moon console table, MELODY MAISON



£79

Bag a bargain with this classic wooden table. Portobello rustic pine console, TESCO DIRECT



£99.99

Style this botanical-inspired design with flowers and foliage. Chateau Chic Paris console table, WAYFAIR



£199

Get a country cottage look for your entrance. Boston console table in Light Grey, THE COTSWOLD COMPANY

CLASSIC CHARM



£79

Go for a narrow design in compact spaces. New Apartment mirrored console, VERY

STYLE SECRETS

Choose the perfect table for your space with our tips

SHOP SMART

Think about the purpose you want your console table to serve; is it a purely decorative piece, or are you looking to add storage? Choose one with a low shelf to double up as a shoe rack, or make sure there's room on the top for your phone and a vase of flowers.

ON THE SIDE

Pick up a few accessories to add finishing touches. Pop an umbrella stand by the front door

and style up your console with a handy letter rack. Complete the look by hanging pretty hooks above the table for keys.

NEW FROM OLD

Be budget-savvy and have a go at upcycling an unloved console table to give it a new lease of life. Why not sand the surfaces down and apply a coat of furniture paint for a fresh new look, or try painting the ends of the legs for a stylish dipped effect?

Steal Marie's style...



PUT ON THE PERFECT DISPLAY

Make the most of your treasured belongings with innovative and eye-catching ideas

Do you ever find that some of your most favourite possessions remain hidden away in storage because they're a little too precious, or you just don't know where to put them? There's no good reason not to have some of your more delicate or sentimental items on show.

With a little invention, it's quite easy to display a variety of objects and make a real feature of them. There are many interesting containers to house your artefacts in and on, so have a little fun, reopen those boxes and get your treasures out. The problem could be you have too many things out on shelves already, so the more interesting treasures are being lost in the crowd. In which case, try to select the choice pieces you feel work best together. Why not think of it as a rotating exhibition of all your favourite objects, which you could change every few months, cutting down on some of the clutter at the same time.

Scale and position

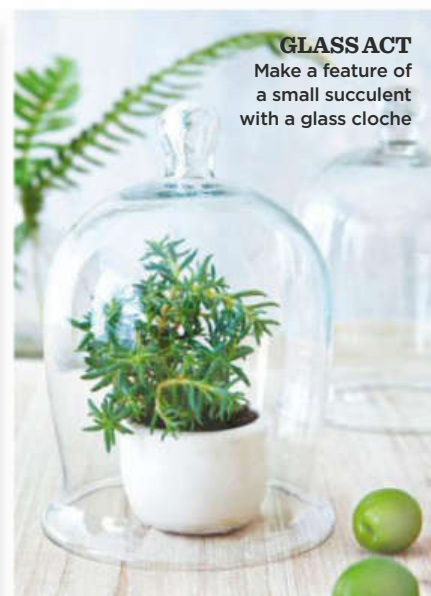
The size and nature of the objects you want to display tends to dictate how much room you'll need and whether they're suitable for that area. A large cabinet of chinaware might be more suited to a living room than a bedroom, and equally clothing or handbags would blend more comfortably in a bedroom. If it's one key item then look for a means of displaying it that fits the scale. A quirky figurine would look great in a glass box or under a cloche, both keeping it safe and simply displayed. Why not get your precious photographs made into a mural or large-scale print by Surface View (print prices start from £50 for images supplied by customers, murals from £50 per sq m), for the ultimate way to keep your memories alive. Turn interesting boxes on their side for box shelves or use old jam jars in a row to house small cacti, plaster casts or favourite childhood toys. Let your creative juices flow and see your favourite ornaments in a new light.

Mother of invention

There are certain aspects to be considered before you start deciding where you would



HUNG UP
Use mini pegs and string to display favourite postcards



GLASS ACT
Make a feature of a small succulent with a glass cloche



SNAPPY STYLE
Got a hobby? Use the tools of your trade to make a display



DREAM THEME
Pick objects in the same palette so they always look harmonious



BOUDOIR CHIC
Stick empty picture frames onto storage boxes, and paint for an ornate look



We really want to see your upcycling pics! Share them using hashtags **#stylists revamps** or **#stylistsmakes**

like an object to be. To begin with, does it need to be contained and how will it be viewed? Does it need to be out of reach of children or wagging dogs' tails? Can it sit on a desk or be put up high? Is it best viewed from all around or from just one side? These are worthwhile factors to think about. Don't forget to look around the house to see if you have any unusual containers that could be given a new lease of life. If nothing quite hits the mark, before going out to buy any new containers, check the dimensions of the object you want to display, so that it will fit comfortably in its new home. If the storage needs to be fixed to the wall, does it have suitable fixtures that will hold it up or can it be adapted? Half the fun is in finding interesting ways to make the most of your treasures and then enjoying the results.



A TRIO OF OBJECTS GROUPED TOGETHER ON A WALL OR ON A SURFACE CREATES A WELL-PROPORTIONED SHAPE

ON SHOW
Keep trinkets in a vintage glass box



GLASS MEMORIES BOX, COX & COX

IDEAS FOR DISPLAY

Stock up on these ways of showing off compact curios

CLEAR WINNER
Danish display dome, £20, Nordic House



CUBBYHOLES
Display cabinet, £18.99, Wayfair



CLASSY DESIGN



BRIGHT IDEA
Terrarium, £10, George Home.

CHEST PERFECT
Jewellery box, £20, Debenhams



WORDS KATE PARKIN



Make Marie's POM POM CUSHIONS

Get Marie's look by accessorising your sofa with a selection of pom pom cushions in funky fuchsia and petrol blue

Give your living room a speedy makeover with our fun scatter cushions to brighten up your sofa. Why not continue the look and add some DIY pom poms to a coordinating throw to create a matching set?

HOW TO

TAKES 1HR COST £15*

- * 1/2m of Morella Orchid fabric, £14.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles (for pink cushion)
- * 1/2m of Panama Petrol fabric, £13.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles (for blue cushion)
- * Fabric scissors & pins
- * Tape measure
- * Iron
- * Sewing machine
- * Anchor tapestry wool in pink & blue, £1 each, Hobbycraft
- * Clover 35mm pom pom maker, £5.90, Hobbycraft
- * Needle and thread
- * Basic pillows, £3 for two, Asda



TRY UPDATING YOUR EXISTING CUSHION
COVERS WITH MULTICOLOURED POM POM
EMBELLISHMENTS FOR A SIMPLE REVAMP IDEA

1 To make a small cushion, cut out one piece of material in your chosen fabric measuring 37cm sq, and two further pieces measuring 37 x 25cm. Fold and pin a double hem along one of the 37cm sides of each smaller piece and sew the hems using a sewing machine.

2 Lay these two pieces of fabric on top of the large piece, with right sides facing and the hemmed sides overlapping each other. Pin in place. Using a sewing machine, sew all the way around the sides and then turn the cushion cover the right way out. Iron flat to remove any creases before continuing.

3 Using the pom pom maker, make four woolly pom poms in the tapestry wool of your choice. Sew these to each corner of the cushion cover with a needle and thread. Cut open one of the basic pillows and pull some of the stuffing out. Use this to fill the cushion cover and make it plump.



Elephant Double Duvet Set
£12



Wooden Drawers
£15



Decorative Cushion
£7

MAKE YOUR HOME
GeorgeOUS
Exclusively at ASDA

'It's packed with PRE-LOVED TREASURES'

Stylist at Home Francesca, 50, is a die-hard bargain hunter and her latest discoveries help shape her decor

MY HOME...



ABOUT ME I'm Francesca Alden, 50, store manager at Returned to Glory, a showroom selling pre-loved pieces, with all profits going to The Hospice of St Francis, Berkhamsted* (facebook.com/ReturnedtoGlory). I live with my husband, Jonathan, 54, a civil servant, and our children, Natascia, 21, Harry, 18, and Oliver, 15. We also have two Labradoodles called Lilli and Chase.

MY HOME I live in a five-bedroom detached house in Gustard Wood, Hertfordshire, bought in 2007.

WHEN I BOUGHT IT Although the house was narrow, it was on a large plot and I could see the potential to extend and create extra space.

AND NOW We've added a two-storey extension and converted the loft. The kitchen-diner was moved to the front of the house and our living room now overlooks the garden.

STYLE TIP Don't be guided by the colour or fabric of a second-hand find, as this can be altered to suit your taste and existing decor. It's more important to like the style and shape.

NEAT IDEA

'Second-hand finds don't have to be used for their original purpose - this wooden box has become a sofa end table'



STYLE TIP

'Now autumn is here, fit full-length curtains for a cosy feel'

MIX & MATCH

'I made the patchwork cover for the sofa and finished the look with a throw from Dunelm'

Buy it
Check out our selection of animal-print cushions
PAGE 48

We'd only been living in our previous home near Harpenden town centre for a year when we decided to move here,' says Francesca. 'We felt we'd made a mistake moving too close to a busy high street and had come to a point in our lives when we were craving more space for the family and our dogs.'

When we first spotted this place, it was out of our budget, but it was soon reduced and we put in an offer. I wasn't keen on the existing footprint of the house, which although large was very narrow, and the layout of the rooms was odd, too. But it had the all-important potential to extend.

Overcoming hurdles

We had problems submitting our plans for a two-storey extension at the back of the house. Many of the architectural features

we wanted, including a vaulted glass ceiling above the living room, had to be scrapped, and the distance we could extend outwards was reduced considerably. Each time our architect resubmitted our plans it cost us a small fortune, but my interior design background meant that I could produce scale drawings, so I decided to do it myself and save us money. I read up on permitted development issues and altered the plans. The whole process was a struggle and 18 months passed before our proposal was accepted, but I had a good builder who started as soon as we got the go-ahead.

Getting to work

As well as extending the house, we moved the position of the rooms. The kitchen was relocated to the front of the house so we could create a larger, open-plan cooking and dining space. It's now the heart of the home and is bathed in sunlight in the >>



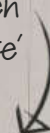
RICH SHADES

'Two-tone cushions work perfectly with my patchwork sofa'



GREAT IDEA

'Choose Shaker-style kitchen units for a look that won't date'



COLOUR POP

'I love laying my table with pretty crockery - this Joules design came from John Lewis'

» morning it feels so cheery. The living room was sited in the new extension at the back of the property so I could relax on the sofa and admire the garden view. I love my garden, so this was really important to me.

The renovations took eight months and we lived in the house while the work was carried out, which was a nightmare! At one point we had no wall on the back of the house and had to shower in swimming costumes - luckily it was summer!

More recent changes have included turning the dining room into a utility area, as a second space to eat was unnecessary. A good-sized utility room is invaluable in a busy household with two dogs.

Time for a refresh

Two-and-a-half years ago I decided to change direction and swap my interior design career to become the store manager at second-hand shop Returned to Glory,

and I've never looked back. Working there has had a big impact on the style of our home and given it a wonderfully eclectic feel, thanks to all the fab pieces that I've picked up. As a member of staff, items have to be on the showroom floor for at least a shift before I can buy them, but I'm constantly amazed at what doesn't get snapped up. For example, the Danish sideboard in our living room was in the showroom for two weeks before I bought it, and no-one wanted the Mid-Century-style chairs that are now in my kitchen.

Hidden talents

My job has also helped me rediscover forgotten crafting skills, as I have to reupholster, cover or sew items for the showroom to inspire our customers. But finding out I could re-cover our own sofa by myself was very surprising and gratifying. I'd been buying bits of fabric »

Stylists at Home

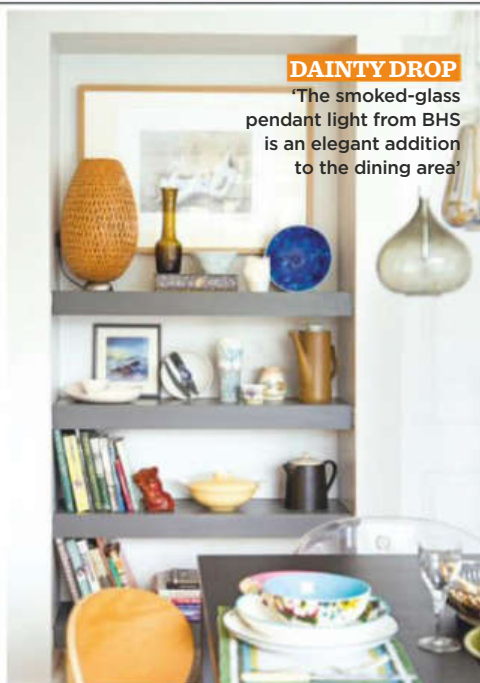


KATIE SAYS

'Like Francesca, don't be afraid to repurpose an item. Use a vintage jelly mould to hold fruit, a small cake stand to display your handwash or turn old tins into plant pots.'

DAINTY DROP

'The smoked-glass pendant light from BHS is an elegant addition to the dining area'



PIECE OF ART

'The staircase felt a bit poky and dark so we fitted glass panels for an airier feel. The coat rack from Number Twenty looks like a sculpture'



'CHANGE WALL DISPLAYS TO GIVE A ROOM A NEW LOOK. SEARCH FOR SECOND-HAND PRINTS AND FRAMES AND RE-DONATE YOUR OLD ONES'

THINKING AHEAD

'I picked the Cooke & Lewis Shaker-style kitchen from B&Q because it'll be easy to repaint the units in a few years when I fancy a new look'



BE SEATED

'The shapely, mismatched dining chairs and mustard feature wall give this space a distinctly Mid-Century feel'

3 style buys

MAKE AN IMPACT

Sebastian seven-light drop pendant, £290, John Lewis



HEAD'S UP

Wooden stag head sculpture, £22, Very



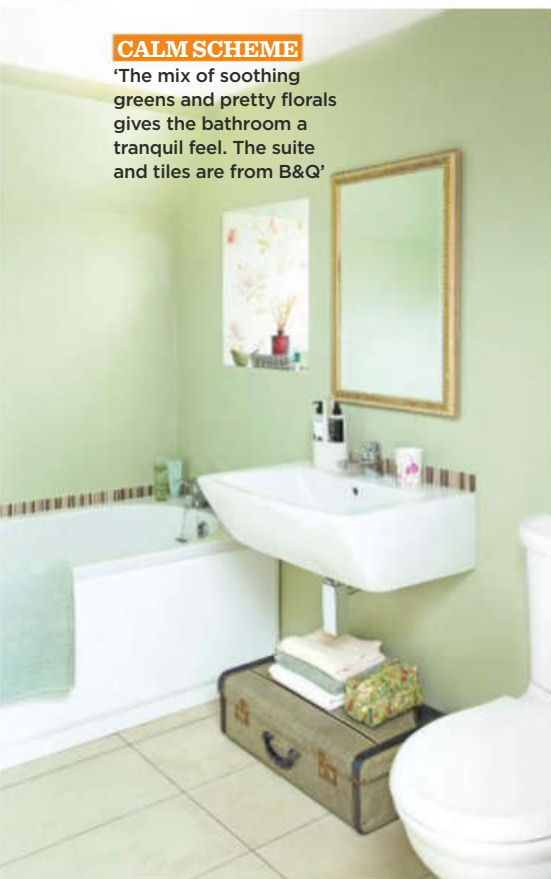
IN CHECK

Stirling throw, £100, Laura Ashley



CALM SCHEME

'The mix of soothing greens and pretty florals gives the bathroom a tranquil feel. The suite and tiles are from B&Q'

**Hit the shops**

Where to go and what to buy to get Francesca's style

★ **QUIRKY STORAGE** Vintage suitcases pop up in surprising locations around Francesca's home, including the bathroom. Channel her look and pick up the decorative suitcase, £75, Oliver Bonas.

★ **EARTHY TONES** Check out Valspar's quick-drying range of paints at B&Q, which Francesca has used around her home. Take advantage of its paint-matching service and concoct your own bespoke colour. Silk emulsion paint starts from £15.64 for 5ltr.

★ **ANIMAL LOVER** Give an old seat a country twist and re-cover it with Dunelm's Tatton and Woodland Fox fabrics, both £8.99 per m.

★ **ON REFLECTION** Look out for a striking mirror that will complement a bold wall colour or paper. Head to Next for a great selection - we love the Augustine mirror, £165.

★ **PRETTY PLATES** Bring a bold touch to your dining table with brightly coloured dinnerware. The Fargrik set from Ikea is available in striking Turquoise, Orange or Green and costs £13.50 for an 18-piece set.

IN LINE

'I wallpapered a dividing wall in our bedroom in Clarissa Hulse's Demeter Stripe. The jury is still out on this one!'

**Stylists at Home****VICTORIA SAYS**

'Create a gallery wall by laying out frames on the floor and take a photo so you remember the layout. Hang the centre frame first and work outwards and look at Pinterest for ideas.'

PERSONAL PIECE

'I re-covered the headboard in our bedroom with a green silk fabric that I found at Returned to Glory, then added a scatter of pink buttons for a fun touch'



Do it

Read our
handy guide
to converting
your loft
PAGE 50

GREAT IDEA

'Pick a dark-wood
bedframe to add a
sense of grandeur
to your scheme'

PRETTY BLOOMS

'Natascia's loft room has
been given a quaint
English country theme
with floral wallpaper
from Colefax and Fowler
and a bedspread from
Secret Garden Quilting'

» from the showroom for so long that it was great to bring them together for one project. Positioning all the pieces and working out the balance of pattern took me longer than sewing it all together, but now, every time I see my bespoke patchwork sofa, it never fails to make me smile.

Peaceful retreat

We designed our bedroom to have a wall of glass and included a Juliet balcony overlooking the garden to make the most of the view. These days, Jonathan and I love nothing more than spending a lazy Sunday morning tucked under the duvet with the doors thrown open, come rain or shine.

I also designed a false wall between the door and bed to add privacy, but my recent decision to wallpaper it hasn't been very successful. I thought that I'd

found the perfect wallpaper – it was expensive but as I only needed two rolls, I didn't think it would cost much. How wrong I was! All in all, I spent over £400 and didn't like the end result, so I started looking around for a new design. I spotted a striped wallpaper from Harlequin, which is a good compromise as the colours are similar, but I'm still not convinced on the pattern and I think I'll be changing it pretty soon! I'm constantly inspired by new pieces, and the great thing about items that don't cost a fortune is that I can easily change them and re-donate them for a fresh look.



Get clicking and go to
[housetohome.co.uk/
styleathome](http://housetohome.co.uk/styleathome) for more
inspiring house tours.

OH-SO CUTE

'I treasure this
simple display
of my children's
first shoes'

Make it

Use box shelves
to create
stylish displays
PAGE 52





Buy Francesca's style

CREATURE CUSHIONS

Style up your sofa with an adorable animal motif cushion – we challenge you to pick just one!

We're a nation of animal lovers, so it's no wonder our furry friends are popping up everywhere this season in interiors. From woodland creatures to our favourite pets, snuggle up with a cosy cushion to give your living room an on-trend update. We've tracked down 10 of our favourite designs, all with an autumnal feel, from just £7.



£25

Add the Wallace the Dog design to a cosy Highland scheme, HOUSE OF FRASER



£38

Make a statement with the quirky Mr Bear cushion, FURNISH.CO.UK



£7

Fall for the big brown eyes of the Dog cushion, WILKO



£7.99

Give your sofa the purr-fect finishing touch with this cat cushion, DUNELM



CUTE POM POM DETAIL

£8

Go nuts for the Watercolour Squirrel pillow, GEORGE HOME

EDITOR
LIZZIE'S
FAVE

£15

Complete a country-inspired theme with this foxy number, VERY

£29.95

Choose the Hedgehugs cushion for an adorable update, OHHDEER.COM



£12

Style up a rural retreat with the Tartan Stag design, TESCO



£8

Finish off a neutral scheme and pick the Rabbit Printed pillow, MATALAN



READY,
SETT,
BUY!

£40

Inject a masculine twist with the Abigail Ahern Badger cushion, DEBENHAMS



STYLE SECRETS

Follow our tips on working a new cushion into your space

TAKE YOUR PICK

Think about the type of effect you're after. A photographic print gives a more realistic image, whereas an illustrated design will provide a softer look. Why not try an appliqué or knitted design for a homespun feel?

SAVVY STYLING

Break up a grouping of patterned or motif cushions with one or two block-coloured designs to keep the look balanced. Choose a shade that's repeated in your cushion selection for a co-ordinated look, or go for a contrasting colour to make a bolder statement.

BE INSPIRED

Head online and check out our sofa-styling Pinterest board for lots of ideas on how to work your new cushions into your living room scheme, plus styling tricks of the trade. Visit pinterest.com/styleathomemag



SKY VIEW
A large picture window makes the most of an attractive vista, Apex Loft Conversions



Like Francesca, CONVERT YOUR LOFT

Find out if extending upwards
will take your home to a new level



MOVE ON UP
Keep a seamless flow to the next level, SkyLofts



CENTRE POINT
A floating staircase from the middle of a room is a space saver, Velux

A loft extension is a great way to add extra space, whether you crave another bedroom, office or playroom. But you need to be sure it'll be worth the investment – not to mention the disruption. Here's our guide to whether a loft conversion is right for you...

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Q Do I need planning permission for an extension, and are there any other rules and regulations?

The good news is that you don't need planning permission for most loft extensions. Adding up to 40 cubic metres in a terraced house, or 50 cubic metres in a detached or semi-detached house counts as a permitted development, however the extension must not protrude beyond certain points. You can read up on the rules at planningportal.gov.uk.

The rules aren't too complicated – you will need a Lawful Development certificate from the local authority and the build will need to be passed by their Building Control Services (or an approved

inspector). They will check it meets the basic standards for structure, ventilation, insulation, fire safety and so on. They are not responsible for checking the general quality of the carpentry and finishes

Q My loft isn't tall – is that a problem?

You need at least 2.3m at the highest point to convert it, bearing in mind that the new floor will add around 20cm due to insulation and building materials.

Q I have a top-floor flat, can I build up?

It depends on whether you, the leaseholder or a combination of people own the roof space and whether your landlord or management company needs



Leaving Velux windows undressed creates a modern look

LIGHT & AIRY

If the windows in your extension aren't large, keep the decor pale to maximise light, Landmark Lofts

to give permission. Talk to a solicitor with experience of negotiating flat leases.

Q Are there any houses that aren't able to be extended?

Houses built during or after the 1970s can be trickier. They are more likely to have been constructed with trussed rafters – complex structures that can be harder to convert as they need new support beams. With the help of a chartered structural engineer it's not impossible, but it can be a more involved process.

Q Will a conversion be disruptive, and is it likely to cost me a lot?

In a word, yes. You can expect up to 12 weeks of upheaval. The initial build is surprisingly swift – and early work will be done via scaffolding. But once builders create a hole for your new staircase, there will be carpentry, plastering, plumbing, electrics and so on, all carried out on the inside. Be prepared for dust...

As far as the cost goes, depending on where you live, a simple Velux extension or a small dormer will set you back anywhere from £20,000-£30,000, while a large L-shaped dormer can reach £45,000. But don't forget that any tiles, sanitaryware and flooring, plus fitting and

decorating, will be extra. It's best to add a 10% contingency fund to your budget.

Q Do I need an architect? What styles of conversion are available?

Well, an architect would always say yes to that! If you've got a big or complex project, it can be a worthwhile investment, but some people simply use a chartered structural engineer to do the drawings.

A Velux extension, taken from the name of the windows that are inserted into a sloping roof, is the easiest and cheapest way to create a room from an existing loft. A dormer extension adds a box onto the side or back, while hip-to-gable extensions are built onto the side of a house.

Q What about finishing touches?

This is where your loft space can really shine. Features such as a rooflight, a run of Velux windows with blinds, a Juliet balcony, an interesting staircase or even a power shower can make it stand out.

Q What about insulation?

Building regulations demand a high level of insulation for the roof and the new floor, but if you're going to use it as a music room or similar, you should ask about extra soundproofing and special flooring.

3 staircases



RISING STAR

Wood treads with low risers give a crafted feel, Space Invaders Loft Conversions

CLEAR WINNER

A glass balustrade lets the light flow, Neville Johnson



WIND DOWN

Clever design can solve a tight stair turn, Bradley Van Der Straeten Architects



Make Francesca's WALLPAPERED BOX DISPLAYS

Love Francesca's look? Pretty up those plain walls with our simple decorative wall boxes that won't break the bank

Don't ditch your leftover wallpaper – put it to good use and have a go at creating your own piece of wall art in less than an hour!

We made a trio of boxes using coordinating paint colours and wallpaper scraps, but why not customise each one to suit your look? Try using gift wrap or even your favourite photos to line the inside of the box for a totally unique look, or use smaller boxes to display Instagram-style snaps for a quirky art gallery idea.

HOW TO

TAKES 1HR COST £9.76

- ★ Medium square box, £5.99, Hobbycraft
- ★ Paint tester pots, £1 each, B&Q
- ★ PVA glue
- ★ Paintbrushes
- ★ Wallpaper samples
- ★ Ruler & scalpel
- ★ 3M Command Strips, £2.77 for four, Amazon



DO IT IN 1hr!



1



2



3

THIS PROJECT IS IDEAL FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES AS THE PICTURE-HANGING STRIPS CAN BE EASILY REMOVED WITHOUT DAMAGING THE WALL BENEATH

1 Working on newspaper, paint the inside and outside of the square box using a tester pot of paint. Don't worry about covering the inside back panel of the box, as this will be covered with wallpaper later on. Leave it to dry before applying a second coat of paint to ensure good coverage over the whole surface.

2 Cut a piece of wallpaper to 30cm sq (we used free samples from the local DIY store). Once the paint has completely dried on the box, apply a thin layer of PVA glue to its back inside panel. Be careful not to use too much glue, as this can cause unsightly excess to spill out from the sides.

3 Lay the piece of wallpaper onto the PVA glue, starting in one corner to ensure it is straight. Rub over the surface of the wallpaper as you push it down to remove any air bubbles. If you have excess paper around the sides, trim this using a ruler and scalpel. Attach 3M Command strips to the back of the box then hang.

MAKE



YOUR

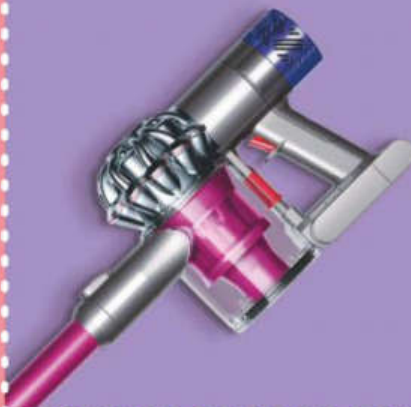
very



HOME



COME



TOGETHER



VERY.CO.UK

21 quick DECORATING IDEAS & TIPS

Update your home with small tweaks that make a big difference and cost less than you think!

1

ADD PRETTY DETAILS

Walls in a strong colour can look stunning, but if you're in need of a change without doing anything too dramatic, adding wall stickers could be the answer. It can be the subtlest of images that tone in with your wall colour – and can always be removed at a later date.

2 STYLE YOUR BED

Time to get out those winter woollies – and we don't just mean cosy jumpers. Dress up your bed with soft, luxuriant throws and cushions and make your bed a full-on comfort zone. Take a look at any throws or cushion covers you've stored away over the summer months and see if they fit with this season's shades, otherwise invest in a couple of key pieces and modify any existing textiles you don't use by embellishing or dyeing them, for a new look.

3 Button it

With so many cushions around this autumn, adding the tiniest button detail can help to refresh their look. Choose buttons in the style of the cushion, say chunky leather or wood ones to match cable knit or a mix of varying colours and sizes to stand out against plain covers.



4 Make a memo

Make use of an old picture frame without glass by creating a memo board. Paint or wax the frame and cover a board the same size as the back of the frame with thick cardboard or card-backed cork, then fabric. Pull two or three pieces of ribbon across the board, over the fabric, and fasten in place with tape or glue at the back. Then fix the whole board to the back of the frame with staples, tacks or strong glue, and finish with a hanger.



5

LOVE YOUR HALL

If your hall is large enough to house extra storage, make it work a little harder by adding simple storage like a cute school-style bench or birdhouse alcoves for hats and gloves. Pop extra boxes under your bench, too, for wellies or other winter accessories.

6

TO ADD EXTRA INTEREST TO WICKER BASKETS, PAINT A STRIPE OF COLOUR ALONG THE BASE AND DISPLAY TOGETHER



7 GET PAINTING

Paint your own headboard! Measure the height and width you want it to be and where you want it within the room. Buy a large piece of card or stiff paper, and draw or trace an outline of half the headboard. Cut the card; use this as a template to draw around, lining it up with the central line. Turn the card, repeat on the other side and paint it in.

8 Take steps

Ladder shelving is a simple and very attractive storage solution. Why not upcycle an old set of wooden steps – clean it up and keep a little rustic or refresh with a coat of paint.

9 PERK UP WITH PAPER

Use pretty paper to line a small cabinet. If the shelves can be removed, cut one piece of paper to fit the back, otherwise measure the space and fix the pieces with 3M Command poster strips (£2.39 pack of 12). If you are cutting individual strips for each shelf, vary the paper but keep within similar styles or colours.



10 Spell it out

For a quick project, stencil a saying, phrase, or even just an iconic shape in black on a white canvas. Plain canvases are available from art shops and check out the great selection of lettering stencils from Hobbycraft, from £4. Just paint straight on the canvas in black acrylic paint.



12

LIGHT IT UP

Give your tired and unloved lampshades a new lease of life by covering the outside with a pretty fabric. Pick up a lampshade making kit (try Hobbycraft), or do it yourself, following the frame of the existing shade. Try covering a few shades, and hanging them together in a cluster.



11

Pick flowers

One joy of autumn is the profusion of dried flower heads that you can find in your own garden or in the florists – perfect for filling an oversized wooden or ceramic bowl. Add smooth pebbles or treasures from the beach.



13

PUT ON A PICTURE SHOW

If your wooden photo frames need a new lease of life, giving them a lick of paint and grouping them together can instantly update a wall. Vary the colours (a great way to use up tester pots), and fill the frames with a mix of prints, images or decorative paper.



WORDS KATE PARKIN AND CASSIE PRYCE PHOTOGRAPHS TIMENUCKCONTENT.COM

14

RATHER THAN HAVING A FULL FEATURE WALL, WHY NOT MASK OUT SECTIONS AND PAINT AS PANELS?

15

HIT THE WALL

Think creatively about ways to update your walls. Group together quirky collections such as plates, clocks or embroidery hoops, and mount on the wall. It's easy to change this display as often as you like and add new pieces to extend your collection.



16

Take time to reflect

Lean or hang a large mirror to create an illusion of space and grandeur. A fireplace is the perfect spot to use, as it already lends itself to being the focal point of the room.



17

FILL THE FLOOR

Transform a room with a statement rug. Whether it's to replace a dated design or cover floorboards for warmth in winter, this tweak will instantly update your space. Why not use your rug as a starting point to change other accessories?



18 FIND THE RIGHT FENG-SHUI

Update your space in an instant by changing around the position of your furniture and accessories. Move a sideboard from one wall to another for a fresh feel, or try making a cosy cluster around the fireplace with sofas, armchairs, blankets and cushions for a new winter setting where you can sit back and relax.

19 Hang a hook

Introduce a burst of colour by embellishing one hook or a row of them in a vibrant, strong shade. Buy a simple stencil or create your own design that can work around the dimensions of the hook. Try a floral, paisley or strong-shaped stencil and paint on the wall directly behind the hook. Use the same shade of paint for both, but you may need a different finish for wood or metal.



20 Brush up

There are some beautifully intense paint colours available this autumn, like cobalt blues and aubergines. Update chairs or tables by painting the legs only, for a pop of colour. If the tabletop or chair seat is in a natural wood, the contrast is even better and will pep up a room for winter.



21 SORT OUT STORAGE

Keep clutter at bay by improving your storage around the house. Start by having a clear out, deciding what stays and what goes, then think about how to best use the space you have. Clever storage can make a huge difference when it comes to giving a room a makeover, so be sure to factor it into any decorating plans.

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lizzie

Lizzie Hudson, Acting Editor

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10%***
ON A GORGEOUS
NEW LOOK!



EXOTIC TOUCH
Check out the Butterfly Home by Matthew Williamson collection with its striking motifs and rich colours



BRIGHT SHADES

Add a hit of colour with the Butterfly Home by Matthew Williamson bedding collection

As warm summer days become a distant memory, get ready to update your home by browsing the Autumn/Winter 2015 catalogue from Debenhams. Not only will you be spoilt for choice with a fab range of furniture and accessories, but *Style at Home* readers will also receive 10%* off.

Be inspired by the wide range of homeware, whatever your style, and get planning your next room makeover.

Start afresh

Create a warm, homely feel with a mix of jewel colours, sumptuous fabrics and natural textures, to ensure your scheme is effortless and easy to live with. Take a look at the fab ranges including J by Jasper Conran, RJR, John Rocha, Betty Jackson, Black, Butterfly Home by Matthew Williamson and Star by Julien Macdonald to finish off your look.

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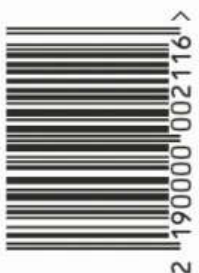
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To kick-start your new autumn look you can enjoy 10%* off your homeware purchase. Simply present the voucher (left) at the checkout in store, or enter the code **YK46** online.

Offer valid from 1 to 30 September 2015

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Take a look inside
Sarah's bright
new scheme

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**STYLE
SCHOOL**
Part 2

Your ultimate **GUIDE TO CURTAINS**

If you feel like treating your windows to a makeover, look no further than our helpful guide to getting the perfect curtains

Choosing curtains can feel daunting with so many things to consider, but once you've got it right, they'll transform your room, making it feel warm and welcoming. There are lots of important points to consider before splashing out, though. Think about the size and shape of the window, room height and how your room is used. There are many different types of fabrics, too, plus linings, headings, curtain poles and finials, or made-to-measure versus off-the-shelf. We've done the homework so that it's easier to make the best choice for your windows.

You will learn

- * How to plan your room
- * Tips on measuring up
- * Off-the-shelf versus made-to-measure
- * Fabric choices
- * Heading styles
- * Curtain poles and finials
- * Fabric trends



Getting STARTED

All you need to know about choosing
the right curtains for your scheme

Dressing your window will transform your room, but it's important to do your research first before hitting the shops.

To narrow down your options, consider how the room will be used and think about how much privacy and light you require. Living rooms often need as much natural light as possible, so lighter fabric is an option, whereas a bedroom will need a thicker, well-lined material to block out the morning sun. Curtains

are also a great way to add a splash of colour and pattern to a room and can finish the scheme, creating a homely feel.

Get the measure

The next step will be measuring up. Don't be daunted by this. There are a few golden rules, which are easily mastered. Measured correctly, the curtains will enhance the room and can even make it look larger and more spacious. You may prefer a smart, tailored look or a luxurious window treatment with the fabric pooling on the floor. It's a good idea to hang your curtain pole close to the ceiling to add height to the room.

Material world

One of the key elements is your fabric choice. A lightweight material, like linen or cotton, or even a sheer, will create an airy, casual vibe, while a heavier fabric such as velvet will instantly add drama. It's best to get a few samples and hold them up to the window in the room to see how they look. 'Never underestimate the power of a pair of curtains!' says Sarah Quilliam, head of product design at Hillarys. 'More than just a window dressing, curtains can give your home a fresh new look and can be the starting point for the room's theme and decor.'



COSYUP
Hang a thick curtain in front of an external door to beat draughts

A LIGHTWEIGHT FABRIC LIKE COTTON OR VOILE WILL LOOK AIRY, WHILE A VELVET WILL ADD A DRAMATIC LOOK

What you'll need

- * Fabric
- * Ladder
- * Tape measure
- * Spirit level
- * Sewing machine
- * Scissors
- * Needle and thread
- * Curtain pole
- * Screwdriver
- * Drill



ELEGANT TOUCH
Add glamour to a bedroom with curtains that pool on the floor



Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS
'Be bold and use curtains to lift a plain room. Pay attention to details such as the tiebacks and finials, they can make an impact if you have a plain fabric.'

Hang your curtain pole close to the ceiling to create height

OLD & NEW

Try a vintage-style fabric with modern fittings to bring it up to date



GO AROUND

In a bay window, hang curtains on a track to work with the space



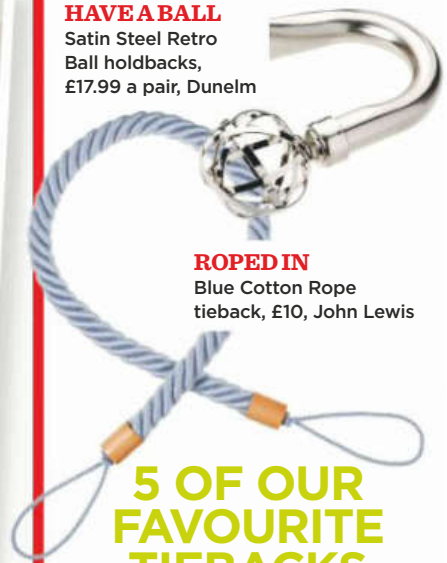
GO BOLD

Use curtains to make a statement in a neutral scheme



HAVE A BALL

Satin Steel Retro Ball holdbacks, £17.99 a pair, Dunelm



ROPED IN

Blue Cotton Rope tieback, £10, John Lewis

5 OF OUR FAVOURITE TIEBACKS



CANDY CHIC

Awning Stripe Pale Cranberry curtain tiebacks, £15 a pair, Laura Ashley



SHINE ON

Glass Monroe tieback, £24.99, Dunelm

COOL TONES

Celeste Dove Grey curtain tieback, £20, Laura Ashley



Curtain headings Not all curtain tops are created equal - here are the different styles



★ **TAB TOP** If you're on a budget, this is often the best. The contemporary heading is only suitable for curtain poles and won't require hooks or rings. Loops can be made in the same or contrasting fabric. Curtains, from a selection, Dunelm



★ **PENCIL PLEAT** A simple and more traditional design that can be used either on a curtain track or pole. Opulence Amethyst pencil pleat curtain, W127 x L137cm, including measuring and fitting, £151, Hillarys



★ **EYELET** This uncluttered look is only suitable for poles and allows the fabric to hang in wide, loose folds. You can choose from coloured eyelets to suit your pole. Heidi lined curtains in Steel and Clementine, from £50, John Lewis



★ **PINCH PLEAT** Ensuring the fabric falls into elegant folds, this classic curtain heading is more structured than a pencil pleat. Suitable for both tracks and poles. Curtains, from a selection, Dunelm >>

BE BRIGHT
Use a standout
design as
your room's
focal point

Try making
cushion covers
in the same
fabric to pull
a look together

THE CLASH
Team a bold
stripe with
a patterned
wallpaper



**FANCY
FLORAL**
See last page
for details

MEASURING *your curtains*

It's crucial you get this stage right, so
take your time to avoid any mistakes

Having bespoke curtains made to measure is one way of ensuring a perfect finish, but if you want to make your own, take care to get the right measurements from the start.

How to measure up

- 1 Decide if your curtains will hang from a pole or track and position it 10-15cm above the window. If there's space, let it run at least 15cm either side of the window.
- 2 Depending on whether your curtains are floor or sill length, measure from

the pole or track down to where you want them to finish. Sill-length curtains often finish 1.25cm above the sill, or 15cm below the sill level, and floor-length often finish 1.5cm above the floor level. Add extra centimetres to let them pool on the floor.

- 3 To get a soft gathered look when the curtains are closed, multiply your track or pole width as a guide; by two for a pleat or eyelet heading, and for tab top headings, multiply the width by 1.5cm.
- 4 Add another 2.5cm to allow the curtains to overlap in the middle when closed, to maximise your privacy.



SET, MATCH
If you love a curtain colour, why not incorporate it into your furnishings?

Ensure you leave enough space

Garry Bailey, technical engineer at window dressing experts Swish, advises: 'When measuring for a new curtain pole, a good rule of thumb is to add an extra 30cm onto the width of your window as this extra 15cm either side will give a pleasing end result, allowing the curtains to stack back. If you find you have limited space either side of the window, you'll need to factor this in so you can be sure that your choice of final fits comfortably into the space available.'

Top practical tips...

Don't forget to consider these important points...

★ **WEIGH IT UP** Think about the weight of the curtains when putting up your track or pole. For mid-weight curtains, a 2.8cm diameter pole will be sufficient. A 2cm pole would suit a lightweight sheer and a 3.5cm pole for a heavier fabric. You may also need extra brackets to take the weight of heavy curtains.

★ **MIX COLOURS** If you're thinking about made-to-measure curtains, the options are endless. Mix and match two different colours that complement the room. A blackout lining is best for bedrooms to keep out the morning sunlight. Team with delicate sheers to add further privacy and soften the look.

★ **WORK WITH YOUR WINDOW** Dressing a bay window may look like a daunting prospect but it's quite simple. Swish has a good range of poles suitable for a two-corner bay, with elbow joints,

allowing the poles to angle to suit your window shape.

★ **ADD A LAYER** Lining your curtains will not only ensure your room is kept warm and toasty, but it will enhance the look and fullness of the curtain. Choose between a standard lining, a blackout lining and a thermal lining. Why not add a contrasting fabric, creating your own lining to make the curtain look just as good from the back.

★ **MAKE A MATCH** Use a statement fabric to give your window wow factor. Pick out a few of the colours in your choice of accessories to bring the scheme together. >>

GIVE IT THE ELBOW

Choose a pole like this for awkward-shaped spaces



CONSIDER CURTAINS WITH BLACKOUT LINING IF YOUR ROOM FACES A STREET LAMP OR FACES EAST, GETTING THE MORNING SUNLIGHT

PANEL SHOW

Consider having a coloured curtain panel that matches your decor



Stylists at Home



JILL SAYS
'I've teamed curtains with Venetian blinds on all the front windows. The blinds work well here because they give us privacy, while the curtains help to dress the space.'

Curtain STITCH

Have a go at sewing your own window dressings with our ideas

Get a look that's unique to you and your home by making curtains from scratch. There are so many fabrics and materials available in a wealth of colours, textures and prints, that you can be sure of a look that is personal and one of a kind. You'll find, too, that making your own will save you money and may spark a new-found love of sewing.

Sew simple

It may feel a little daunting to embark on your own sewing project, especially for something as large as curtains, but don't fear, because they're easier than you think. A tab-top design is the least complicated pattern to follow, while – if you're a dab hand with an iron and fusible fabric – no-sew curtains are another fantastic option for beginners.

SHADES OF SUMMER

Blind made from Harlequin's Impasto Serene fabric in fuchsia/linen



WORKZONE

Create a pretty sewing corner in your home



Mix patterns in the same shades for an artistic, boho look



COLOUR MIX

Take shades from colourful curtains to inspire your decor. Amazilia fabric by Harlequin



**IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SEWING MACHINE
TRY HAND SEWING – IT'S GREAT FOR
UNWINDING IN FRONT OF THE TV**

One of a kind

Curtains will instantly change the look of a room, so be sure to choose fabrics that tie in with the rest of your colour scheme and decor. The weight of the fabric will make a difference to how easy the curtains are to sew – heavyweight fabrics will be more difficult. Don't forget to check the settings on your sewing machine so that you have the correct needle/presser foot. If you don't want to stitch curtains from scratch then you could update an older pair – why not sew a block-coloured panel to a short pair to lengthen them?

ART ATTACK

Curtains in Northmore Major fabric, Flock





Q Can I hang curtains on windows that already have blinds or nets?

Yes, of course! Blinds are great for practical reasons, especially if they are blackout versions, and perfectly frame the window. Curtains add depth and texture to the window and outline the space. Choose blinds and curtains that are in the same materials and complement one another, or go for a completely different finish to create a striking look. To save money, hang curtains that are not the full width but just create the look, and simply close the blind at night.

GET IT RIGHT Q&A

Your questions answered

Q Should I choose different materials for varying times of the year?

For summer, curtains that are made of lightweight or translucent fabrics are popular choices due to their ability to freshen up a room, keep it cool during the warmer months and, of course, provide privacy. Long, draping voile curtains are fabulous at this time of year, while floral patterns and bright tones will add welcome colour. In the winter, choose heavy-set fabric with thermal lining or interlining to keep out the cold and create a warm and cosy feel in the room. Rich, deep shades are perfect at this time, too.



Q Should curtains drape the floor, brush level with it or fall just below the windowsill?

If you want a dramatic look or have a large room with high ceilings, then choose curtains that will touch the floor. For smaller rooms, or to create a smarter, neat look, then hang the curtains to just below the windowsill.



Q What are the key considerations when choosing new curtains for a room?

First think about the size of the room. In smaller spaces, lighter and brighter colours are more suitable, while a larger room can take a darker fabric. If you're aiming for a light and fresh scheme, then stick to curtains that are made from lightweight materials, but if you want to create a cosier feel, then pick curtains in a heavier, textured material. Lined blackout curtains are ideal if you live near a street lamp or a busy, well-lit road. And, of course, they're perfect in summer, when the sun rises earlier. If you want to refresh the look without changing the curtains themselves, then simply get a new pole, finials or tiebacks for an updated finish.

Thanks to Nicolas Swift from online blinds and curtain retailer, DirectBlinds.co.uk, for his handy curtain advice. >>

Stylists at Home



CHARLOTTE SAYS

'Make sure you measure well when making curtains! And for your first attempt, choose a fabric with a simple design. Making your own saves a fortune!'

WORDS EMMA FISHMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM/DIRECT BLINDS

**DELICATE FLORALS**

Elveden fabric in Orchid, £40 per m, Villa Nova; Debutant emulsion, £18.75 per ltr, Little Greene; Satin Steel Flower finials, £14.99 per pair, Dunelm

**SCANDI STYLE**

Elin Citrine fabric, £22 per m, John Lewis; Dove Grey White water-based paint, £32 per 2.5ltr, Laura Ashley; Vasentlig finials, £3 per pair, Ikea

**MOODY BLUES**

Gosford fabric mix, £36 per m, Laura Ashley; Dark Duck Egg matt emulsion, £13.95 per 2.5ltr, Wilko; Antique Gold Ball finials, £14.99 per pair, Dunelm

Perfect COMBOS

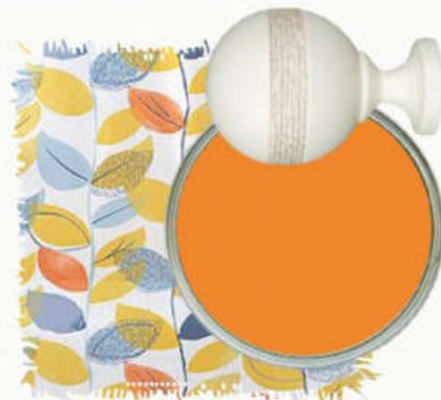
Complete your look with coordinating finials and wall paint

**GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Java Mineral curtains, from £155, Direct Blinds; Vincent emulsion, £18.75 per ltr, Little Greene; Blossom Time finials, from £15 per pair, Swish

**MAGICAL MOTIFS**

Papilo fabric, £56 per m, Harlequin; Love Letter flat matt, £12 per 2.5ltr, Wilko; Antique Brass Urn finials, £14.99 per pair, Dunelm

**LEAFY DESIGN**

Ferle Tangerine curtains, from £97.01, Direct Blinds; Marigold matt emulsion, £18.75 per ltr, Little Greene; White rope finials, £18 per pair, John Lewis

**MODERN MIX**

Tulips fabric in Saffron, £16 per m, John Lewis; Steel Parade, £24.29 per 2.5ltr, Dulux Mix Lab; Gossamer Chrome finials, from £15 per pair, Swish

**COUNTRY STYLE**

Wisteria cotton linen mix, £36 per m, Laura Ashley; Carmine emulsion, £18.75 per ltr, Little Greene; April Cloud Ball finials, from £15 per pair, Swish

**SMART STRIPES**

Seabury in Lime, £30 per m, Villa Nova; Horizon emulsion, £18.75 per ltr, Little Greene; Satin Steel Moroccan finials, £14.99 per pair, Dunelm



Never miss a Style School! Last month's was on wallpapering - if you missed it download a digital copy from cushienumber.co.uk. Next month, all you need to know about heating!

THIS MONTH'S *Do it*

Get your home office in order with monochrome accessories and furniture. A metal chair, lamp and drawers have an industrial feel and are neat and tidy. Dark picture frames add to the theme. Let's go to work...

A line of string with pegs is a great way to keep mementoes on show





Em gets rifling – and reading!



The bargain hunt begins...



Laurie finds some old rustic keys

The £20 Challenge!

From trash to TREASURE

Each month, *Style at Home's* Laurie and Emily find an unloved bargain to transform

9am BEAUTIFUL SETTING

It's a lovely sunny day and, armed with £20 given to them by Lizzie, the *Style at Home* Editor, Laurie and Emily head off to the Epsom Racecourse Antiques and Collectables fair in Surrey. Held once a month, this event has up to 200 stalls and is set by the stands of the racecourse, so it's a fabulous location. There's plenty to choose from – now all the girls need to do is decide what hidden gem to buy!

Browsing the stalls is all in a day's work



10am TOUGH DECISIONS

Browsing through the stalls, the girls find beautiful vintage furniture and bric-a-brac – everything from old postcards to period bureaus, books, sideboards, vases and antique keys. The hunt continues and it takes time to peruse all the stalls.

11am SPOTTED!

As soon as the girls see a vintage folding desk, they fall in love with it on the spot, and discussions begin as to what they could do to bring it up to date. Its simple design means it's easy to carry and stow in the car, so now it's time to start haggling.

11.15am DEAL DONE

Priced at £30, the desk is worth trying for, so Laurie and Emily make an offer to the stallholder. After a bit of bartering, the price is settled and the girls bag the desk for £20 – bang on budget!

1pm TIME TO TRANSFORM

Back at *Style at Home* HQ, and after a great deal of discussion, Emily and Laurie decide to transform the desk by giving it a lick of paint and some metallic detailing, for an on-trend look that couldn't be easier to achieve.

Complete the look with copper-coloured accessories



BAG A COMPACT DESK LIKE THIS TO USE AS A DRESSING TABLE, STUDY/WORK AREA OR CONSOLE TABLE IN A SMALL HALL



DIPPED-LEG DESK

Make a stylish spot to work, read and get creative

1 First, consider what colours you want to paint your desk – we decided on plain white for a fresh feel, paired with a metallic trim and dipped legs to give it a cool, sophisticated vibe.

2 Next, give the desk a light sand to rid it of any splinters – it also helps to give the paint a key to stick to. Wipe the desk over and ensure it's clean of dust.

3 Using a medium-size brush, paint the desk with white furniture paint or eggshell, being sure to get into all the nooks and crannies of the wood. Leave to dry, then repeat with a second coat and leave to dry again.

4 Mask off a line, three-quarters of the way down each leg, using masking tape. Paint the small quarter section of each leg with a metallic paint of your choice – we decided on copper. Leave to dry and repeat. Meanwhile, using a small paintbrush, paint around the edge of the desktop to give it a matching trim. Again, let it dry and then repeat. Remove the masking tape from the legs, and voila! – one very cool-looking painted desk.

Left: Wire noticeboard, £47, Notonthehighstreet.com. Copper letter rack, £10, George Home. Brooklyn desk lamp in Copper, £15, Tesco. Rush oval basket, £30. Next. Sera blue ridged ceramic vase, £35, Habitat. Postcards, from a selection, Paperchase. Albany Thin Planks wallpaper, £19.99 per roll, Wallpaperdirect.



See the £20 Challenge and step-by-step project videos at housetohome.co.uk/20poundchallengeoctober

Give it a go! REVAMPS AT HOME

Update existing furniture and accessories with our step-by-step upcycling ideas

BOOK NOTE PADS

Turn your stationery into vintage classics



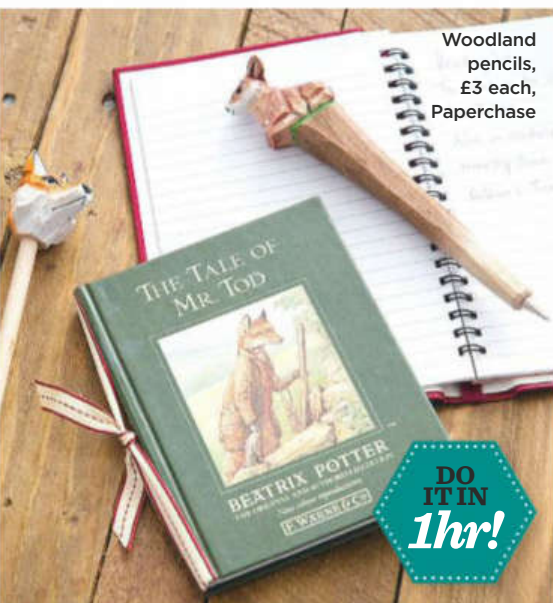
TAKES 30MIN COST 80p

★ Old hardback books, 80p each, charity shop ★ Spiral bound notepads to fit inside ★ Ribbon remnant ★ Scalpel & glue

1 Carefully remove the pages from the book by folding the covers back and sliding a scalpel along the paper. Leave the page attached to the inside front cover if possible. Trim this page so it covers the bare book spine and stick down with glue.

2 Place the notepad inside the book cover and thread ribbon through the wire of the spiral binding. Bring the ends of the ribbon around the book and tie in a knot on the outside to hold in place.

Woodland pencils, £3 each, Paperchase



DO IT IN 1hr!

Fox ornament, £10; trinket box, £10, both George Home. Chunky knit throw, £24.99, Dunelm

STENCILLED SIDE TABLE

Add woodland charm with this foxy number

TAKES 1.5HR COST £28.11

★ Small pine table ★ RustOleum matt furniture paint in Bramwell, £14, B&Q ★ Small amount of white paint ★ RustOleum clear furniture wax, £9, Amazon ★ Fox stencil, £5.11, Cheddar Stamper ★ Paintbrush ★ Fine sandpaper

1 Wipe down the table to remove any dust and coat with two layers of green paint, allowing to dry in between each.

Once dry, use sandpaper to lightly rub at the edges of the table and legs to create a distressed look.

2 Stencil the fox motif onto the top surface, rotating the stencil each time you paint to create a random pattern. Remember to keep the spacing roughly even between each fox. Once the paint is dry, coat the table with a layer of clear wax, leave to dry, then buff with a dry cloth.



**GREAT
NEW
LOOK**



Le Creuset 14cm casserole dishes in Volcanic, £30 each, John Lewis. Hedgehog chopping board, £5; wooden spoons, £3 each, both George Home

EASY STARTER MAKE!



CORK TRIVET

Recycle corks into a stand for your pots

TAKES 45 MIN COST £2.50

★ Corks, £2.50 for a pack of 100, eBay ★ Hot glue gun

1 Stand one cork on its end and place others around it in a circle to see how many you need to fit together and what spacing they need, keeping them as close together as possible.

2 Use a hot glue gun to stick all the corks together around the central one. Keep gluing rings of corks to build outwards, one layer at a time, until the trivet is large enough for your needs. Let the glue solidify before use.

TEA COSY

Use leftover felt to make this fun character



TAKES 1HR COST £3.30

★ 30cm brown felt, £3.30 ★ Embroidery thread & needle ★ 2 x large sheets of paper ★ Pins & chalk ★ Teapot

1 Place two pieces of paper either side of the teapot and use pins at the widest points and the highest point to pin the paper together. Draw the paper off. Draw a squirrel shape onto the paper using the pins as a guide of the extremities. Draw outside the pins at the tail, chest and shoulder, but extend the feet, head and far point of the tail beyond the pins. Cut out.

2 Pin the template onto two pieces of felt and cut out 5mm from the paper edge. Use chalk to mark the curl of the tail, then sew embroidery thread along the line. Pin the pieces of felt together and sew a running stitch around the outside, 5mm from the edge, leaving the bottom open.



Coasters, £8 for four, Next. Orange knitted throw, £25; Arctic faux-fur cushion, £16, both Sainsbury's

COSTS UNDER £5

ADD HINTS OF WOODLAND-THEMED DECOR TO MAKE YOUR HOME COSY THIS AUTUMN



Like us on [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag) and discover lots more craft ideas and how-to videos.

THIS MONTH'S *Make it*

Indulge your *Great British Bake Off* addiction by prettying up your baking. Get creative with paper straws, stripy string and washi tape to make bunting for a party cake. Now that's worth celebrating!

A vintage frame and blackboard are perfect for party greetings



Stylists at Home



KATIE SAYS

'Create unique personalised toppers for cupcakes or cakepops and use them as place settings for a fun addition at a party.'

It could be designer...

PHOTO FRAME

Try your hand at creating a luxury lookalike

COSTS
£15

Make sure the backs of your frames are all level so they will hang flush to the wall

PRETTY DISPLAY
Ombre ceramic bud vase, £3.99, Dunelm.
Peddle yellow decorative bike, £40, Habitat

Follow our simple steps for making this colourful multi-aperture picture frame, inspired by the playful design from Out There Interiors (right). Mix and match different shaped frames and colours, and get creative when it comes to laying out your arrangement to really put your own stamp on the project.

TAKES 1.5HR COST £15

✳ 6 x photo frames, £1 each, charity shop ✳ 6 x paint tester pots in various colours, £1 each, B&Q ✳ 10 x 50mm mending plates, 30p each, Amazon ✳ Screws ✳ String & paintbrush

1 Paint each frame in a colour of your choice, but first, remove the glass and backing, then replace when the paint is dry. Work out the arrangement of your frames. On the back of one frame, screw one hole of a mending plate onto one side and then the overhanging end of the plate onto the next frame to secure.

2 Repeat until all frames are attached. Attach two screws at equal height on the back of the frames and tie string between the two to hang on the wall.

SPLASH OUT
Multicoloured combiframe, £160, Out There Interiors





Pick the **PERFECT SOFA**

Give your home a stylish new scheme
with a fab sofa from Next

When it comes to choosing
a sofa for your home,
it's important to make
sure you go for a
design that will stand the test of time.

At Next Home, you'll find a wide range of sofas – simply choose your favourite design by picking from over 30 styles of sofas and chairs in up to 95 different fabrics. No matter how much space you have, there's a sofa to fit! Every sofa is tested for wear and tear

through 200,000 impact cycles, so you can be sure yours has been built to last. Also, most fabrics have been treated with Nextguard, a treatment which helps to repel and prevent stains.

Add style

Once you've decided on your sofa, take a look at Next's gorgeous Autumn/Winter 2015 collection online and in store and take your pick of the fab accessories to finish off your new look.

Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS
'Corner sofas are great for dividing a room and are perfect for the whole family to snuggle up on, while cushions can update your scheme season to season.'

Bring your sofa to life with funky graphic cushions



TAKE A SEAT

Add a contemporary touch with the Astrid sofa, starting from £550 (Astrid corner chaise in Belgian soft twill, £1,175, shown here)



OCHRE TONES

Geo stripe cushion, £14



SWEET SAYINGS

Home word cushion, £10



ART ATTACK

Teal hand-painted abstract canvas, £70



MODERN VIBE

Chrome tripod table lamp, £40

KEEP WARM

Teal cosy rug, from £30



ESSENTIAL INFO

Order your new sofa today

PICK THE PERFECT DESIGN

Buy from the Next Directory by calling 0333 777 8000, or at next.co.uk, and customise your sofa by choosing size, fabric and leg styles.

SHARE YOUR SOFA

Once your dream sofa has been made-to-order and delivered to your door, share it online using #whatsmysofa.

SPEEDY DELIVERY

Most furnishing and accessories from Next Home are available for the next-day delivery service. Selected furniture, sofas and chairs can be delivered to your door within four working days.

next
HOME
next.co.uk

SOFAS SUBJECT TO STOCK AND FABRIC AVAILABILITY. DELIVERY COSTS APPLY. FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS GO TO NEXT.CO.UK

Update with PATTERNED CARPETS

Make a change from plain flooring and
enjoy the possibilities of pattern

Mention patterned carpet and often we think of outdated, unattractive swirly designs.

Many of us opt for safer plains and naturals, sticking with a more minimal look, but why not try introducing some structured colour to your home?

Try a bold choice

Using patterned carpets can open up decorating opportunities and add a contemporary feel, instantly lifting a room. Be bold with pinstripes, plaids, even chevron stripes, for maximum impact. For a more subtle approach, look at less dominant details with the same shade that work in conjunction with the room. Match the pattern's scale and complexity to your room size, and keep furnishings neutral.

Preparing your floor

The main factor is to ensure that the floor underneath is in good order. It should be clean, smooth, and free from indentations and ridges, which could have an effect on the appearance and wear of the carpet. If your floor is concrete, it is vital that the subfloor is dry and the relative humidity is below 75%. Make sure wooden floors are free from loose or high-standing nails and fill gaps wider than 3mm.

GODDOTTY

Try a polka dot design to add a sense of fun to a working area



Playful polka dots

These work in a range of rooms. The key is the background colour – brighter tones have a dramatic effect, while softer hues are easier on the eye. **Padstow Surf Spot**, £75 per sq m, 80% wool, Brintons

5 patterned carpets

SEE RED

Wool Fabulous
Wide in Ruby,
£140 per
sq m, Crucial
Trading



ALL ABUZZ

Honey Bee
Trellis, £70
per sq m,
Brintons



EARN YOUR STRIPES

Africa Oryx,
£71.95 per
sq m, Natural
Elements
Flooring



TIMELESS

Palm Beach
pattern in
Cream, £22.99
per sq m,
Carpetright



GEOMETRIC

Kingston
Itschner Light
Grey, £74.99 per
sq m, Axminster
Carpets



PICK A PALETTE

Choose your accessories to match colours in the carpet



Make an entrance

Thin stripes (left) help emphasise the length of your room as well as making a colour statement. The beauty of thinner stripes means there isn't a dominance of one tone. Calm it down with classic pale furniture and neutral accessories. **New Worlds USA, £41 per sq m, 100% wool, Kersaint Cobb**



MIX IT
Opt for natural colours that can be styled up with bolder accessories

A touch of retro

Not all pattern has to be obvious – this more muted design has a 1950s feel and would be a good choice combined with furniture and pieces from that era onwards for a playful modern twist. Softer patterns also add interest in a bedroom. **Crescent Evening Gown, £45 per sq m, 100% polypropylene, Crown Floors**

AS WITH PAINT, DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY AS MANY CARPET SWATCHES AS YOU NEED TO FIND THE RIGHT PATTERN FOR YOUR ROOM

LIGHTEN UP

Choose glimmering accents to keep a deep-coloured scheme light



Look to the past

For those who want to make a strong statement, matching walls with floors is a nod to 1970s styling that can define a room. It's a good idea to have a decorative scheme in mind before purchasing flooring. **Sofia Wilton pattern in Red Floral, £32.99 per sq m, 100% polypropylene, Carpentryright**

Optical illusion

Just as you create an impression with wallpaper, carpet can be used to the same effect. Striking designs can set the tone of the room and create a base for more adventurous furnishings. **Platinum Grain du Bois, £95 per sq m, 80% wool, Timorous Beasties, Brintons**

CARPET TYPES

WOOL

Top quality, warm, soft and retains its look. Try an 80/20 mix with synthetics for an affordable option.

POLYPROPYLENE

Highly stain resistant and hard wearing, but prone to flattening in busy areas. Great value for money.

POLYESTER

Warm, durable and easily cleaned, this often makes a good blend with wool for better tuft definition.

TWIST PILE

Springy underfoot, great for high-traffic areas, hides scuffs and prints.

LOOP PILE

Loops made of wool, polypropylene, nylon or a mix of fibres.

SAXONY

Twisted yarns with a long pile, feels sumptuous, but can flatten.

WOVEN

Made from the traditional loomed method, with colours and patterns woven in, rather than printed on top.

TUFTED

This springy carpet, in a large variety of finishes and colours, is a value-for-money choice.



SOFT TOUCH

Relax an industrial scheme with a subtle carpet design

'At last, I've got MY DREAM BEDROOM!'

Does your room feel neglected?
Follow the example of *Stylist at Home*
Sam, 48, who used vibrant colour and
Scandi style to give her space a boost

MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Sam Burke, 48, a production company administrator, and I live with my husband, Mike, 51, a satellite broadcasting engineer, and our children, Joe, 16, Freja, 14, and Finn, 12, in a 1930s four-bedroom house in Hampton, southwest London. We moved here in 2001.

MY CHALLENGE Bringing colour into my dull bedroom and getting rid of the broken wardrobes and rickety wooden bed. I also wanted to sort out my storage issues once and for all and simplify the window treatment – all on a budget.

MY WISH LIST Soft wool carpet underfoot, a rich colour on the walls, white furniture with more storage and accessories that provide plenty of bursts of colour.



TOTAL
£2,012
TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST



STYLE TIP

'Build up colour gradually. Pick a shade for the walls, then identify others and find accessories in those tones'



STAND OUT

'All-white furniture, like these bedside tables from Ikea, is a great contrast to the blue walls'

We were living nearby in a two-bedroom terraced cottage, but we needed more space after Joe came along and I became pregnant with Freja,' says Sam. 'We wanted to stay in the area and found that by living slightly further out, in Hampton, we'd get more for our money.'

We found a three-bedroom place that was ripe for renovation. It looked very shabby, and you could tell the last owners had been smokers, as the whole house was nicotine yellow. But we saw the potential to turn it into a four-bedroom property, as the loft was partly done, and we'd be able to create a kitchen-diner at the back. Initially, we painted everything white to give a blank canvas, took up all the carpets and sanded or painted the floors.

Over the next few years we did up the children's rooms, finished the loft, and then did the big kitchen extension in 2011. Our bedroom hadn't really changed since those early days, and finally it was our turn.

Making plans

Last summer I started thinking about what sort of bedroom I wanted. The space is at the back of the property and south-facing, so it gets plenty of light and could easily take a strong, cosy colour. I knew blue was the right choice and that was the starting point for the whole design. I wanted to give the bedroom >>

COSY BUT STYLISH

'Being brave and choosing blue for the walls is something I'm really pleased about, as it has given the room real character'

Stylists
at Home

VICTORIA SAYS
‘I love this bright bedroom – you could swap the knobs on the drawers for glass ones to tie in with the bedside lamp and add more yellow with pretty flowers’

LIGHTEN UP

‘White wardrobes and chest of drawers feels less imposing than wooden pieces’

GREAT IDEA

‘An ornate glass mirror always adds instant glamour’

ELEGANT GLASS

‘With all the white and strong colours, I wanted to add a delicate texture’

‘INSTEAD OF PUTTING UP PICTURES ALL OVER THE WALLS, TRY PICTURE LEDGES – IT’S EASIER TO CHANGE YOUR IMAGES IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT’

» a classic Scandi feel, so I felt that simple white furniture was the way to go.

Floors & furniture

Painted floorboards didn't fit in with the cosy feel I wanted. I longed for soft carpet, which would feel luxurious and cut down on noise. We went for grey wool, which fits in with the Scandi decor, goes with everything and doesn't show the dirt!

While shopping for our bed, we spotted a chest of drawers that would suit the scheme. The white wardrobes from eBay weren't as sturdy as I'd have liked, and also the knobs were a bit plasticky, so I replaced them with enamel ones. I was able to find some bedside cabinets in white that were a similar style to the bed.

Finishing touches

I chose cushions, bedding and throws in pink, blue and yellow to boost the room, and treated myself to a Pip Studio throw, as well as some embroidered cushions. We finished the last bits just before Christmas, and it was so lovely to wake up together on Christmas Day in our new room.’

MUSTARD MAGIC

‘I love the colour and design of this lampshade – it has a slightly retro feel’

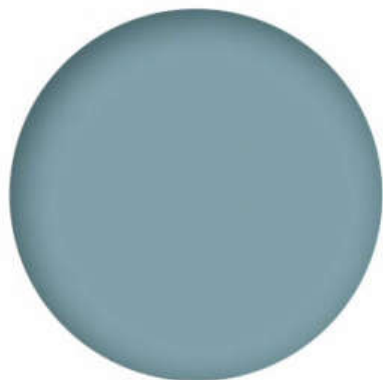
My shopping list

Pippa king-size **bed frame**, from £299; Pippa six-drawer **chest**, £399, both Dreams. Colonial Parallel Collection **carpet** in French Grey, £28 per sq m, Victoria Carpets. Stone Blue estate **emulsion**, £38 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Soft Velvet Haze roman **blind** with blackout lining, £140, Tuiss. Pompadour 18-inch **light shade**, £83, Graham & Green. Bali **silver plate and enamel frame** in Fuchsia, £22.50; Kitty enamel and diamante **frame**, £9, both Bombay Duck. Lemieux Morocco Citrine king-size **duvet** and two **pillows**, £90, House of Fraser. Chinese garden **quilt**, £63, Pip Studio. White appliquéd birdcage **cushion**, £35; Butterfly Home by Matthew Williamson turquoise scroll embroidery **cushion**, £25, both Debenhams. Venetian glass dressing table **mirror**, £25, Wilko. Hemnes two-drawer **beside tables**, £70 each; Ribba **picture ledge**, £7.90, all Ikea

WORDS STEPHANIE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE
SHOPPING LAURIE DAVIDSON

Get Sam's BEDROOM LOOK

Accessorise peaceful blues with vibrant pinks and yellows



MOODY BLUES

Add drama. Crown Period Dead Flat emulsion in Dance Hall, £24.98 for 2.5ltr, Designer Paint



QUICK
& EASY
UPDATE

BEDSIDE GLOW

Look for quirky buys. Albury Preserve jar table lamp, £30, Dunelm



SWEET AROMA

Scent your room. True Grace Village Classic candle in Moroccan Rose, £25, Houseology



FEMININE FLORALS

Be cosy. Vintage Style Floral bed quilt, £79, Little Ella James at Notonthehighstreet.com



SUNSHINE SHADE

Brighten up with punchy colour. Handmade Yellow lampshade, £30, Hunkydory Home



PICTURE PERFECT

Fill with a favourite photograph. Coral frame, £12, The Contemporary Home



SIMPLE STORAGE

Keep clutter contained. Svira box, £12, Ikea



PRECIOUS JEWELS

See everything at a glance. Two-tier cake stand jewellery display, £9, Melody Maison



MODERN DESIGN

Pair with a plain duver cover. Ditsy grey and yellow reversible kingsize pillow, £7, Habitat

QUICK FIXES *for an*

Give your bedroom something to shout about with smart ideas from this

Eastern tones



MOODY HUES

Choose rich tones. Chloe purple table lamp, £6, TESCO



PRINTS CHARMING

Freshen up your scheme with pretty florals. Eden bedding set, £50, BHS

Scandi style



SWITCHED ON

Get a designer look. Kura metal lamp with paper shade, £15, HABITAT



GREY MATTER

Inject bold geometric prints. Elements Geo double duvet set, £16.99, DUNELM

Into the woods



WOOD EFFECT

Go for a rustic scheme. Tall log slice table lamp, £25, WILKO



BACK TO NATURE

Perk up your space with on-trend basics. Wild Woods double duvet set, £12, GEORGE HOME

instant update

season's top trends – with looks from just £60



Hit the shops! Head to theroomedit.com for more great high-street buys for every room in your home.



TOTAL
£117

SET ALIGHT

Add boudoir touches. Gold-effect debossed candle, £5, SAINSBURY'S

COSY UP

Mix in botanical motifs. Elegant Trail embellished cushion, £16, NEXT

BRIGHT IDEA

Accessorise with a fringed throw. Mia throw, £39.50, MARKS & SPENCER



TOTAL
£84

LIGHT THE WAY

Bring in pops of yellow. Geometric candle, £9.95, NORDIC HOUSE

COLOUR BLOCK

Use clean lines for a contemporary feel. Geo cushion, £7, GEORGE HOME

CHUNKY KNIT

Stay toasty with a winter warmer. Grey throw, £34.99, HOMESENSE

STAR BUY



TOTAL
£60

FOXY NUMBER

Introduce forest friends. Dapper Fox scented candle, £3, TESCO

WILD THING

Stand proud with bold designs. Stag cushion, £15, VERY

WRAP UP

Snuggle up with a huggable throw. Stag print throw, £5, MATALAN

PROMOTION

Create a **SENSE OF CALM**

Transform your home into a serene space with the Harmony collection from Sainsbury's

*Make a pretty display
on a bedside table*



At the end of the day, we all want to come home to a place we can relax in, so why not treat your home to a cosy new look?

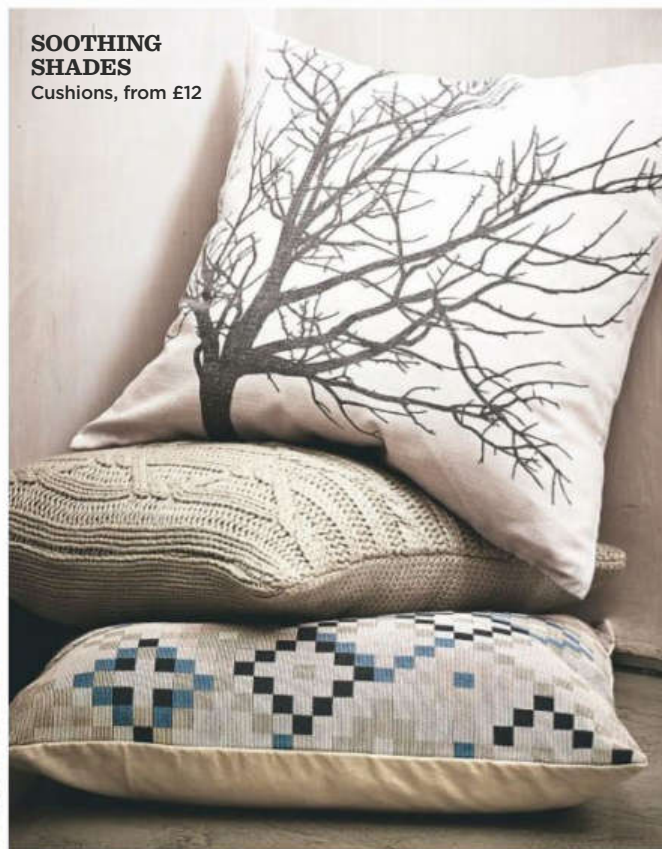
Already renowned for outstanding quality, design and great-value homeware, Sainsbury's beautiful Harmony collection will help you to achieve the tranquil space you've been dreaming of.

Tranquil retreat

The beautiful new range incorporates subtle abstract prints of trees and blossom in dove greys and shimmering silver, teamed with natural wooden accessories for a modern feel. Add a contemporary finishing touch with metallic accents, while creating the ultimate relaxing vibe. So, turn your home into a calming space with a fab new look.

SOOTHING SHADES

Cushions, from £12



GREAT PRICE

SUBTLE PATTERN

Diamond woven cushion, £14



CALMING SCENES

Tree print glass framed wall art, £15



DECORATIVE TOUCH

Tall Grey patterned ceramic vase, £18; Small Grey glaze ceramic bottle, £8



LIGHT UP

Rattan wood lantern, £12



COOL SHADES

CLEVER STORAGE

Grey/Cream fabric storage basket £22, for two



PICTURE THIS
Tree design wooden frame, £12



Stylists at Home



NATALIE SAYS

'I love the ceramic vases, I would make flowers out of pom poms and twigs for a pretty display on a dresser. The neutral palette is timeless and chic.'

SOFT TONES

Wooden wrapped strand pendant, £32

ESSENTIAL INFO

How to get a fab new look for your home

BE INSPIRED

by Sainsbury's great-value homeware and accessories in store and check out its other stunning ranges.

TAKE A LOOK

at sainsburyshome.co.uk to find your nearest store or for more information. Range available at selected Sainsbury's stores from 13 September 2015.

Sainsbury's

HEADS UP

'I love the powerful, fixed-head shower, and I use the adjustable handset for cleaning the bath afterwards'



'We created one

EXTRA ROOM

'Knocking the wall down between the bathroom and loo, and changing the layout has made much better use of the space'



MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Catherine Goodchild, 38, an NHS administrator, and I live with my partner, Jeff, 40, a picture editor, and our children, Joe, 18, and Hannah, 14, in a three-bedroom 1930s house in Hampton, south west London. We moved into this house in June 2009.

MY CHALLENGE I wanted to create extra space for a proper family bathroom where there was enough head height to accommodate a shower. We also needed plenty of storage space and I really wanted it to have a clean and tidy appearance.

MY WISHLIST A decent, powerful shower and separate hand-held attachment, large neutral stone tiles, touches of colour, plus a window that wouldn't leak!

GORGEOUS ROOM'



STYLE TIP

'For a sleek look, use the same tiles on the walls and floor but vary the size to add interest'

Instead of a cramped bathroom and separate loo, *Stylist at Home* Catherine, 38, now has one big luxurious room

Moving to London from Macclesfield in Cheshire 15 years ago for work, we were settled in the Teddington area, which Jeff knew quite well,' says Catherine. 'We moved into a modern 1970s terraced property, but six years ago we began to think about moving somewhere bigger, so started searching in nearby Hampton. We liked the fact that it felt like a village, and had a good school, shops and transport, as well as plenty of greenery.

We soon found this house, with its large kitchen-diner and three good-sized bedrooms. It had been partially revamped, but there was still plenty of potential. One of the problems we knew we'd have to tackle was the cramped bathroom and tiny loo. The whole layout needed rethinking.

Replanning the space

The roof slopes down at the back of the house, which gives the bathroom character, but it meant that the bath could only fit right up against the wall otherwise you wouldn't be able to open the door. There also wasn't room to have a proper fixed shower – a major problem with the kids growing up.

Although the bathroom had been fitted with inexpensive fittings, we didn't feel we could rip them out when we moved in, as they were new. Now, several years on and falling apart we knew it was time to act. The obvious thing was to knock the two rooms into one and rejig the layout.

Alternative plans

We got several quotes from builders and went with one from the Checkatrade website, booking the work for three weeks in October 2014. The window was in a bad state, so renovating it was part of the quote, and we went for frosted glass, which lets light in, but still offers us privacy.

By knocking the wall down we were able to change the position of the new bath and still have room for a proper ceiling-mounted waterfall shower. We also planned to get a new vanity unit, but site it to the left-hand side of the room, rather than straight ➤

TOTAL
£4,296
TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST



Check out our blog cushienumber.co.uk for even more affordable, must-have accessories.

OUT OF SIGHT

'In a small bathroom you need as much storage as possible'



IN THE DETAIL

'I found this pink cup in a cupboard, and knew it would look good in here'

DUAL USE

'Mirrored cabinets are great space-savers and allow medicines to be stored up high'

GREAT IDEA

'Display a favourite picture in an unusual mount, like this heart-shaped design'



'I DREADED SHOWING MY GUESTS THE OLD BATHROOM, BUT NOW I'VE GOT THE LARGE, LUXURIOUS ROOM I ALWAYS WANTED'

» ahead as you walk into the room, leaving space for the new loo to tuck neatly behind the bath. It leaves open space down to the window, which makes it feel so much bigger.

Fittings & tiles

We'd saved up for a while so we could buy good-quality fixtures and fittings. We loved the built-in vanity unit with its stone-effect top and compact basin, so that was our first buy along with a sturdy bath and loo, complementary taps, plus a contemporary-style shower and screen.

I had my eye on some big neutral tiles for a spa feel, and actually found them at the

Stylists at Home



KATIE SAYS

'I love the beautiful cup, which acts as a soap dish. Always have a look in the cupboards for bits you have hidden away before buying anything new.'

same place we bought most of the sanitaryware. We decided to tile the floor and two walls, painting the rest of the room white for a fresh feel. Behind the sink we added eye-catching glass mosaics for contrast.

Finishing touches

With the tiles up, the frosted glass in the window and the shower screen in place, we still needed a mirror. For extra storage, I chose a mirrored cabinet where we could keep medicines and toiletries. With everything finished, I couldn't wait to use the bathroom the feeling of standing under that huge powerful shower for the first time was fantastic.'

My shopping list

Dualelle 170cm **bath**, £378.99; **side panel**, £249; **end panel**, £138.99; Quantum 600mm **basin unit**, £639; extra single **base unit**, £228.99; pencil-edged Tusk 230mm **vanity top**, £212; Quantum square back-to-wall **loo**, £699.99; Natural Crème ceramic floor **tiles** (44cm x 44cm), £46 per sq m; Natural Crème ceramic **wall tiles** (59cm x 32cm), £42 per sq m; all Utopia Group. **Mosaic tiles**, £90 per sq m, Not Just Tiles. Adept BRD mixer **shower**, £553.20; Evolve basin **mixer tap**, £95; Evolve bath **pillar taps**, £125; ACE square bath **screen**, £212.40; all Mira Showers. Agave heated **towel rail**, £499, Vasco. Aluminium 550 mirrored **cabinet**, £374.24, Bauhaus. **Box frame**, £2, Ikea. Heart **insert mount**, £1.95, Designer Picture Mounts. Small bath **rug** in Peony, £20; Supreme Supima Hygro **bath towels** in Blush and Pink, £20 each; **hand towel** in Blush, £10; **facecloth** in Blush, £3.50; all Christy

Get Catherine's BATHROOM LOOK

Indulge yourself without breaking the bank with these beautiful buys



SCENT-SATIONAL

Create a calm, relaxing mood.
Candle, £12.99, H&M



SOFT & SNUG

Wrap up. Classic towels in Soft Pink,
£10 for a bath towel, John Lewis



SET IN STONE

Add texture. Sandstone accessories, from
£9.50 for soap dish, Marks & Spencer



SPOT ON

Keep essentials tidy. Hand Block Pink printed
cosmetic bags, from £19.95, Rigby & Mac



HEART TO HEART

Jazz up your walls. Cut-out polka dot and
floral heart wall art, £25, Debenhams



SUBTLE SHIMMER

Include gleaming finishes. Alison Cork
Mercury Silver trinket jar, £24.50, QVC



MODERN STYLE

Go for a simple look. Yang Mono wash basin
mixer tap, £31.16, Bathroom Takeaway



SQUEAKY CLEAN

Wash your hands. Neroli & Bergamot
soap bar, £5, Oliver Bonas

STORE IT IN STYLE



A TOUCH OF GLASS

Pick stylish storage. Stainless-steel double-door
mirrored cabinet, £89, Roman at Home

THIS MONTH'S *Buy it*

From fluffy pink towels to cool copper containers – use this simple selection of affordable accessories to inject colour, warmth and a touch of glamour to your bathroom scheme.

Make a design statement with on-trend wall tiles

PAMPER UP

Shower towel, £7.99; metal soap dispenser, £7.99; metal tin with lid, £6.99; bath mat, £6.99, all H&M

Stylists *at Home*



JILL SAYS

'A white suite and tiles mean you can easily change your look with coloured towels. Refresh old towels by dyeing them a different colour.'

WIN! *fabulous new bathroom furniture*

Enter now for your chance to win over £1,000 worth of bathroom furniture from Twyford

Style at Home has teamed up with Twyford to offer two lucky readers the chance to win over £1,000 worth of bathroom ceramics and new furniture from its fantastic e100 range. So, if your bathroom could do with a refresh, why not take a look at the fab new range?

Made in grey ash wood, it's an extension of Twyford's popular e100 ceramic range. While highly practical and stylish, it's affordable, too, starting from £177 for a 360mm vanity unit.

Top quality

Not only does the new furniture look great, it's water and humidity resistant and is backed by a two-year guarantee, so you can rest easy knowing it's been built to last. The new furniture includes five vanity units, large and small modular side furniture units and three mirrored cabinets. With a range of different sizes available, you can mix and match the furniture to create your ideal bathroom space. If you're looking for a sleek, contemporary feel, the units are also available in hi-gloss white. Get planning your new bathroom look now!

FOR MORE INFORMATION call 01270 879 777 or visit twyfordbathrooms.com



NEAT & TIDY
Keep your bathroom clutter-free with clever storage

WIN!
TWO PRIZES,
EACH WORTH
£1,000

TERMS & CONDITIONS Two winners will each receive bathroom fittings, worth £1,000. No cash alternative. Competition open to UK mainland entrants only. The winners will be contacted directly to arrange delivery. The promoter is Style at Home. Prizes supplied by Twyford Bathrooms. Employees cannot enter. The prize is subject to availability. Service provider is Spoke 0333 202 3390. *When you enter by text you may get SMS marketing messages from Time Inc. (UK) Ltd and Style at Home. If you don't want to, end text with NO INFO. Lines open at 00.01am on 25 August 2015 and close at midnight on 6 October 2015. See page 129 for full terms and conditions.

Twyford

4 ways to enter

PHONE Call 0904 160 0655 and leave your answer, name, address and phone number. Calls cost £1.45 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

TEXT SAHWIN2 followed by a space and your answer, then your name, house number and postcode to 87088*. Texts cost £1.50 per entry plus your network charges.

POST Fill in the coupon and send to Twyford/SAH October competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB.

ONLINE Visit housetohome.co.uk/competitions.

Phone lines open on 25 August 2015 and close at midnight on 6 October 2015. Postal entries must arrive by 9 October 2015. SP: Spoke Ltd 0333 202 3390.

ENTRY FORM

Send to Twyford/SAH October competition, PO Box 502, Leicester LE94 0AB

QUESTION What do you do in a bathroom?

A) Shower B) Sleep C) Eat

ANSWER

Mrs/Ms/Miss/Mr/Title First name Surname

Address (BLOCK CAPITALS)

Postcode

Daytime phone number Home phone number

Email address Year of birth

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StyleatHome

SET THE BAR HIGH

'We raised the height of the breakfast bar to keep worktops and washing-up out of view while we're relaxing on the sofa'



STYLE TIP

'Opt for a black sink so it won't tarnish or show any scratches'



MY ROOM...



ABOUT ME I'm Kristy Hirst, 30, and I live with my husband, Edd, 30, in our four-bedroom new-build townhouse in Rothwell, Northamptonshire. We're expecting our first child later this year.

MY CHALLENGE The kitchen-diner was every shade of cream and white, including the units, worktop and floor. It felt cold, bland and totally uninspiring.

MY WISH LIST We wanted a space with buckets of cheerful character and charm that reflected both our personalities, and somewhere that we'd enjoy using as a family and for entertaining friends.

RETRO VIBE

'Our grey gloss and wood units are from Howdens and they create the perfect contemporary backdrop for our vintage diner touches'

'We gave it A RETRO DINER FEEL'

Stylist at Home Kristy, 30, has created an uplifting diner-style kitchen with a modern-retro twist

The previous owners were the first to live in this new-build home and were here only 18 months, so when we moved in it was practically untouched,' says Kristy. 'On one hand, that was great as the house was a blank canvas, but it meant we had to live with a bland kitchen-diner until we'd saved up enough to change it.'

The range cooker with four ovens and six burners was a dream come true, and we could see that it would make a stunning space once we'd injected it with colour.

A big change

Edd and I have always loved diner-style kitchens for their fun, relaxed vibe, and this is what we wanted to achieve. So after three years of saving, we were finally able to gather together ideas and plans. We initially considered a black-and-white tiled floor, but realised it would date quickly. We also reigned in our plans for bright red leather seating and went for a darker, more reserved red that would stand the test of time. We gradually toned down our ideas to ensure we created a retro diner-style kitchen that wasn't in-your-face.

Trusted tradesman

It was important that we found a reputable tradesperson, and we came across a great kitchen fitter who was also a carpenter. We spotted some striking textured tiles from Topps Tiles and, needing units that matched their earthy tones, we picked out grey gloss doors with wood carcasses. The kitchen designer at Howdens, where our builder had an account, wasn't sure of our choice but we were certain the warm tones would work together. We were adamant about having flat-fronted doors with no ridges that could collect grease and dirt.

Our builder did a great job of fitting the new cupboards around the existing appliances, which only had to move an inch here and there. He also adapted the open shelving that'd previously been a glass-fronted cupboard. Not >>

**TOTAL
£6,370**

**TURN OVER FOR
MY SHOPPING
LIST**

Stylists at Home



CHARLOTTE SAYS

'I love the star light. I'm going to have a go at making carnival letter lights out of MDF using battery-powered bulbs. It would be great for a kid's room.'

DINER SEATING

'We found this bench seat online and it creates a subtle diner feel, while the metal chairs keep it modern'

GREAT IDEA

'Don't go overboard with a theme - use pieces that can be changed easily'

COFFEE TIME

'Well-chosen pieces echo the retro red palette'



'THE METAL SIGN IS LIT BY LED BULBS AND WE CAN CHANGE THE LETTERS FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION OR IF WE WANT TO SURPRISE GUESTS'

» only was our builder great at solving problems, he also saved us money as he advised us not to rip out the old floor tiles. He suggested Karndean flooring, as the fitters would screed over the top to create a level surface for the wood-effect design. We found a local supplier and the flooring was laid with little hassle.

Choosing a paint colour for the walls was a harder decision - we couldn't find a tone that wouldn't clash with the grey units. Finally, we decided upon Dulux's warm Egyptian Cotton and it happened to be a kitchen-specific paint, which was a bonus.

Open for business

After just two weeks, we could see our diner-style kitchen shaping up, so we shopped around for fun pieces to hone the look. TK Maxx was a treasure trove of accessories, but the biggest success has to be the 'Hirst's Diner!' sign, which Edd's friend made. It creates the look we were after perfectly and now we have a fun and welcoming kitchen-diner.'

QUIRKY TOUCHES

'Record-style accessories continue the 1950s theme'



Like us on [facebook.com/styleathomemag](https://www.facebook.com/styleathomemag) and see our latest videos, house tours and decorating tips.

My shopping list

Greenwich Gloss Stone and Light Oak units, £2,800; Lamona Black composite 1.5 bowl, £249; Lamona brushed steel-effect monobloc tap, from £150; Black square-edged laminate worktop, around £250 for 3m, all Howdens. Rustic Split Face mosaic tiles, £62 per sq m, Topps Tiles. Karndean Knight Tile pale lime oak-effect flooring, £19.99 per sq m, Concept Flooring. Walls painted in Dulux Kitchen Egyptian Cotton matt emulsion, £23.92 for 2.5ltr, B&Q. Kansas fluted bench seat in Kirsche, £560; table, £290; Bistro-style chairs, £63 each, all HCF Contract Furniture. Bar stools, £69 each, Barstools.co.uk. Metal sign with letters, £100, Goodwin & Goodwin. Light bulbs, £40 for 16, We Love LEDs. Napkin dispenser, £3.99, Dunelm. Tassimo red coffee maker, £99.99, Bosch. Salt and pepper shaker set, £3.95; red espresso shot cups, £3.95 each; Vintage shop scales, £49.95; drinking jars with carrier, £14.95, all Dotcomgiftshop. Blue vase, £12, Very

Get Kristy's KITCHEN-DINER LOOK

Pick primary colours and 1950s-style accessories for a vintage vibe

RETRO SHAPE



LIGHT UP

Hang above a kitchen table. Industrial pendant lamp in white, £130, Out There Interiors



STAR BUY

Create a focal point. Graham & Brown lit star, £59, Very



WAKE-UP CALL

Start the day right! Dedica 680.R coffee machine, £200, DeLonghi



IN THE PAN

Rustle up dinner. Cook's Essentials stainless-steel Colour Smart 22cm open wok, £19.50, QVC



SWIFT CUPPA

Pop it on your worktop. Elements dipped tea, coffee and sugar canisters, £5.99 each, Dunelm



SWEETNESS & LIGHT

Satisfy your sweet tooth. Retro class cafe sugar pourer, £3.95, Dotcomgiftshop



DRINK ME

Use it when entertaining. Mason drinking jar glasses, from £7.99 for four, Drinkstuff



WEIGH IT UP

Measure carefully. Typhoon vintage kitchen scales, £34, Red Candy

QUIRKY CUPS



A DOG'S LIFE

Brighten up your morning cuppa. Stacking mugs, £20, Debenhams



**PRINTS
CHARMING**
Juxtapose kitchen
textiles, from £14,
House of Fraser

9 ways to go RETRO

Shake up your interior scheme by incorporating iconic design ideas

Feeling inspired by our gorgeous kitchen makeover this issue? Then you'll love our 9 ways to carry the retro look into the rest of your home – from the bubbly shapes and oversized lights of the 1950s to 70s-style psychedelic prints and shaggy rugs, it's a theme that's not going anywhere soon.

Retro doesn't have to be garish, and you don't have to change your whole room to get it right. Rather than go all out with bright, bonkers patterns, simply add a Mid-Century chair here and a patterned rug there to enhance your space. Try our nine steps to get this style in your home.

1 *Mix old and new*

Trying to furnish your entire home strictly from a specific era can become quite tricky, so mixing old with new tends to be a whole lot easier. Using contemporary shelving units to hold favourite vintage treasures, or teaming classic pieces of furniture with modern lighting or textiles is how it's done.



I WANT CANDY
Leon set of four
multicoloured
chairs, £99, Tesco

2 *Supersize it*

Whether that's with a psychedelic wallpaper motif, or an extra-large floor lamp that takes centre stage, retro style is about being noticed, being bold and breaking conventions, so think big!

3 *Break the rules*

Retro-style doesn't mean having to stick to retro colours – merging different eras and themes is fine. Scandi-style Mid-Century furniture looks gorgeous against pretty pastel shades and metallic accessories.



**HOBBY
CORNER**
Haberdashery
accessories from
£6, Laura Ashley





6 Be a copycat
Mid-Century-style furniture is such a classic, it's instantly recognisable – which makes it important to get right when trying the retro look at home. From Eames to Ercol, there are fantastic replicas of classic designs out there at companies such as Cult Furniture, so you can get the designer look at home at a fraction of the price.



8 Keep it simple
To avoid an overly cluttered look, pick a few key items you love, rather than filling every surface with vintage trinkets. Funky cake tins, bold framed prints and colourful scatter cushions are affordable, simple additions.

BY KEEPING THE BACKGROUND NEUTRAL, YOU CAN PLAY WITH VARIOUS TEXTURES AND STYLES

4 Source vintage finds
Scour eBay and Gumtree, car boot sales and vintage markets for old furniture that you can reupholster or repurpose for a new look, and then you'll have the real deal at home. If that seems like too much work, then there are loads of vintage shops where you'll find gorgeously upcycled bits and pieces, but you'll have to pay a premium. Otherwise, there's plenty of retro-style furniture on the high street that has an old-fashioned feel but is actually brand new.

5 Subtle touches
If you love retro style but you're not keen on going all-out, find a few key pieces to subtly incorporate into your scheme. Fresh flowers in a quirky retro vase or an iconic print on a cushion or teapot are all stylish ways to add a hint, without having to go full-blown retro.

7 Colour confident
A new colour palette is a great starting point. Pick retro tones for paint, fabrics and accessories; and keep the look modern with a balance of old and new pieces. Stick to bold patterns and hues within a certain colour group.



GO POTTY
Large chevron vase, £35; small chevron vase, £12; multishelf £349, all BHS



9 Make a statement
There's no better way to capture a theme or style than with wallpaper, whether on just one feature wall or all over. With so many colours and patterns – from retro tile prints for a kitchen to 'flower power' designs in the bedroom – you can change the personality of your space in a flash.



For more inspiration and to shop for retro accessories, visit theroomedit.com

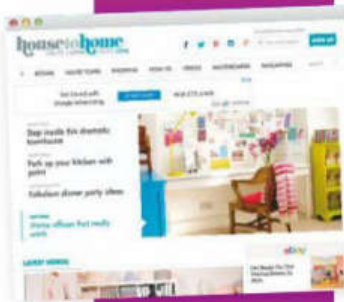
More ways to enjoy YOUR FAVE MAG

We know you love to pick up *Style at Home* at the supermarket or newsagent, but don't forget the other ways you can connect with us



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**p110 SHOW
STOPPING BAKES**



**p106 EASY IDEAS
FOR PASTRY**

p107 **QUICK MEALS**

Check out our delicious dinners
- all take 50 minutes or less

Have a SCREAM!

Serve up a spooky surprise with these ghoulish goodies



MONSTER DOUGHNUTS

TAKES 1HR MAKES 7

★ 250g self-raising flour
★ 2tbsp caster sugar
★ 1tsp baking powder
★ 150ml milk ★ 2tbsp sunflower oil ★ Oil for deep frying
TO DECORATE
500g fondant icing sugar
★ Green and purple food colourings
★ 14 giant white chocolate and milk chocolate buttons
★ 7 sweet teeth
★ Orange sugar balls

1 Mix the flour, sugar, baking powder and a pinch salt in a bowl. Add the milk and oil and mix to a soft dough.

2 Roll out to 2cm thick and cut out rounds with an 8cm cutter. Remove the centres with a 3.5cm cutter.

Re-roll the trimmings to make more doughnuts. Heat the frying oil to 180°C and cook the doughnuts in batches. Fry for 4 min each side, until golden. Drain on kitchen towel and leave to cool.

3 To decorate, mix the icing sugar with water to a thick consistency and colour half purple and half green. Spread over the doughnuts (decorate one at a time), working quickly. Use icing to stick a milk chocolate button to a white chocolate button, then place two on the doughnut for the eyes. Stick the sweet teeth in place and sprinkle over orange sugar balls. Repeat for remaining doughnuts.

SCARILY SWEET



SPIDER COOKIES

TAKES 45MIN MAKES 8

Separate 8 Oreo biscuits in half. For the filling, beat 50g butter, 100g icing sugar and a few drops vanilla extract together. Spread a little over half of the biscuits. Unroll 4 licorice wheels and cut into 4cm lengths, and place 4 on each side of each biscuit. Add a little more filling and top with the remaining biscuits. Stick 2 candies on top for the eyes.



Sign up to our fab free newsletter for bonus recipes, housetohome.co.uk/themestylist



MERINGUE GHOST POPS

TAKES 30MIN MAKES 7

★ 150g egg whites ★ 300g caster sugar ★ 50g melted dark chocolate

1 Preheat the oven to 120°C/Gas ½. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Gradually add 150g caster sugar a spoonful at a time, whisking well after each addition.

2 Then whisk in 150g more caster sugar. Spoon the mixture into a large piping bag, snip off the end and pipe ghost shapes onto a baking sheet lined with baking paper. Insert wooden lollipop sticks in the bottom of each one. Bake the meringues for 1 hr until dried out.

3 Turn off the oven and leave the meringues to cool inside. Fill a piping bag with the chocolate and cut off the end. Pipe faces on to the meringues and leave to set.



GHOULISH JELLIES

TAKES 30MIN + SETTING MAKES 5

Put **10 sheets of gelatine** in a bowl of cold water (the amount of water isn't important) and leave to soak for a few min until softened. Squeeze out the water and place in a bowl. Pour over **4tbsp boiling water** and stir until it dissolves. Add **1ltr diluted red fruit squash** and mix well. Add a little **red food colouring** if you like. Place in the fridge to set. Cut the tops off of **5 oranges** and scoop out the flesh. Cut the top edge into a zigzag pattern and cut out faces on one side of the oranges. Add spoonfuls of the jelly to the oranges until full.

IF YOU'RE CARVING PUMPKINS THIS HALLOWEEN, SAVE THE FLESH TO MAKE A WARMING AUTUMNAL SOUP

GINGER SQUARES

TAKES 30MIN MAKES 15

★ 175g butter ★ 175g dark muscovado sugar ★ 300g self-raising flour ★ 100g golden syrup ★ 1tbsp ground ginger ★ 4 eggs ★ 2tbsp milk
FOR THE TOPPING 100g butter ★ 200g icing sugar ★ 2tbsp ginger cordial
TO DECORATE 50g dark chocolate, melted ★ Orange and green sugarpaste

1 Preheat oven to 190°C/Gas 5. For the cake, put the ingredients in a bowl and beat until smooth. Pour into a lined 18 x 28cm traybake tin. Bake for 30 min until the sponge is springy to touch. Leave in the tin for 10 min, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

2 For the topping, beat the butter, icing sugar and cordial until smooth. Spread over the cake and cut into 15 squares.

3 To decorate, fill a piping bag with chocolate, snip off the end and pipe cobwebs on to half the cakes. For the pumpkins, roll pieces of orange sugarpaste into balls, make ridges using the back of a knife and stick a piece of green sugarpaste on top for the stalk.



CREEPY CAKES!



PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM; WOMAN'S WEEKLY

Take a pack of... PUFF PASTRY



Turn a store cupboard staple into a delicious family meal with our ideas

GALA SLICE

TAKES 1 HR 15 MIN SERVES 8

Put the meat from **600g sausages** in a bowl and mix in **6 sliced spring onions**. Season. Unroll **375g ready-rolled puff pastry**, halve lengthways. Place one half on a lined baking sheet and spread over **1tbsp English mustard** within a 2cm border. Spread a third of the meat down the middle, place **6 hard-boiled eggs** on top and mould around the rest of the meat. Brush the pastry edges with **egg** and cover with the remaining pastry. Chill. Preheat oven to **200°C/Gas 6**. Brush the pastry with egg and bake for 45 min until golden.



HEARTY FAMILY DINNER



SPICED PEAR & STILTON TARTS

TAKES 30 MIN SERVES 4

* **375g ready-rolled puff pastry** * **25g butter, melted** * **1/4tsp ground cloves** * **Pinch allspice** * **2 ripe pears, peeled, cored and sliced** * **75g Stilton** * **25g walnut pieces** * **1tsp thyme leaves** * **1 red chilli, diced** * **Watercress to serve**

1 Preheat the oven to **200°C/Gas 6**. Unroll the pastry, cut out 4 x 12cm circles and put on a greased baking tray. Brush with butter and score a 1cm border. Bake for 8 min until golden.

2 Mix the cloves, allspice and a pinch of pepper. Remove the pastry cases from the oven and top with the pear slices. Dust with the spice mix, crumble over the Stilton and sprinkle with the walnuts and thyme. Dot with some of the diced chilli.

3 Return to the oven for 10 min, until crisp and golden. Serve with a little watercress on the side.

NO TIME FOR BAKING? TRY ALL BUTTER CHEESE TWISTS, £1.28, WAITROSE

CHEESE STRAWS

TAKES 40 MIN SERVES 12

Mix **125g grated cheese** (we used Cheddar, Gruyère and Parmesan) with a **pinch cayenne pepper** and season well. Unroll **375g ready-rolled puff pastry** and brush with **1tsp Marmite**. Sprinkle over the cheese and press down lightly before cutting the pastry widthways into 2cm strips. Twist into spirals and put on a baking tray, top with leftover cheese. Chill for 10 min. Preheat oven to **200°C/Gas 6**, and bake for 10 min until golden brown.



STEAK PIE

TAKES 2 HR SERVES 2

* **2tsp oil** * **450g braising steak, cubed** * **1 onion, 1 carrot, 1 celery stick, diced** * **2tbsp Worcester sauce** * **1tbsp tomato puree** * **2tsp thyme** * **450ml beef stock** * **1tsp gravy granules** * **125g puff pastry** * **1 beaten egg** * **200g mushrooms, sliced**

1 Preheat oven to **170°C/Gas 3**. Heat the oil in a casserole. Brown the steak and veg for 10 min. Add the sauce, puree, thyme, stock and gravy granules. Bring to the boil. Cover and cook in the oven for 1 hr 30 min.

2 Unroll the pastry and cut out 4 lids. Put onto a greased baking sheet and brush with egg.

3 Add the mushrooms to the casserole, turn the oven up to **220°C/Gas 7**. Cook with pastry for 10 min and serve in pie dishes.



PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM. WOMAN'S WEEKLY ESSENTIALS. DINNER TONIGHT. READY-ROLLED PUFF PASTRY, £1.30 (375G), SAINSBURY'S



**SWEET POTATO
CURRY**



**MEATBALL
PASTA BAKE**

**QUICK
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Cook up a delicious
dinner in less
than 50 min!



**STIR-FRY
LEMON CHICKEN**



**SEA BASS
PARCELS**

MEATBALL PASTA BAKE

TAKES 50 MIN SERVES 4

★ 300g pasta ★ 500g pork mince ★ 1 onion, diced ★ 1tsp dried oregano ★ 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped ★ 2tsp Dijon mustard ★ 1tbsp ketchup ★ 1tbsp Worcestershire sauce ★ 100g Cheddar cheese, grated ★ Green salad, to serve
FOR THE SAUCE 1tbsp oil ★ 1 onion, diced ★ 2 garlic cloves, diced ★ 2 x 400g tins chopped tomatoes ★ 50ml red wine ★ 2tsp oregano ★ 1tsp sugar



ONLY 50 MIN

1 Cook the pasta to pack instructions, drain and set aside in the pan. Preheat the grill to medium. In a bowl, mix the pork with the onion, oregano, garlic, mustard, ketchup and Worcestershire sauce. Season.
2 Roll into 28 meatballs and arrange on a grill tray. Grill for 10-12 min, turning occasionally, until browned on all sides.
3 For the sauce, heat the oil in a saucepan over a medium heat, add the onion and gently fry for 2 min. Add

the garlic and fry for a further 30 seconds.

4 Add the chopped tomatoes, wine, oregano and sugar, and season. Bring to the boil, lower the heat and simmer for 15 min until reduced.

5 Preheat the oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Mix together the pasta, meatballs and sauce until well combined. Pour into a baking dish.

6 Sprinkle grated cheese over the top and place in the oven to bake for 25 min. Serve with a green side salad.

SWEET POTATO CURRY

TAKES 30 MIN SERVES 4

★ 800g sweet potato, peeled and chopped into chunks ★ 1tbsp black mustard seeds ★ 3 red chillies, sliced lengthways ★ 2tbsp sunflower oil ★ 2 onions, sliced ★ 1tbsp garam masala ★ 500g tomatoes, quartered ★ 500ml natural yoghurt ★ 75g desiccated coconut ★ 100g spinach ★ Coriander and lime wedges



ONLY 30 MIN

1 Microwave the potatoes on high for 5 min. Fry the mustard seeds and chillies in the oil until the seeds begin to pop.

2 Add the onion and fry until soft and starting to brown. Stir in the garam masala and tomatoes and fry for 5 min.

3 Add the sweet potato to the tomato, stir to coat.

4 Pour in the yoghurt with 200ml water and the coconut. Bring to the boil and simmer for 20 min, stirring occasionally, until the potatoes are tender. When everything is cooked through, stir through the spinach and garnish with the coriander and the lime wedges.

USE YOUR FAVOURITE SEASONAL VEGETABLES FOR A TASTY, FILLING CURRY

SEA BASS PARCELS

TAKES 25 MIN SERVES 4

★ 250g couscous ★ 4 lemons, 2 sliced, 2 zested & juiced ★ 4 rosemary sprigs, finely chopped ★ 300ml hot vegetable stock ★ 170g frozen peas ★ 4tbsp olive oil ★ 4tbsp parsley, roughly chopped ★ 4 sea bass fillets ★ 4tbsp thyme leaves ★ 100ml dry white wine



ONLY 25 MIN

1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/Gas 5. Put the couscous, zest of 2 lemons and 2 sprigs of chopped rosemary in a large bowl. Pour over the hot stock, cover with clingfilm and leave for 5 min before fluffing with a fork.

2 Mix the juice of 2 lemons with 2tbsp oil and season. Stir through the couscous with the peas and parsley.

3 Spoon into the centre of four 30cm x 30cm baking parchment squares and lay a sea bass fillet over each pile. Top each with thinly sliced lemon, the thyme and the remaining rosemary. Drizzle

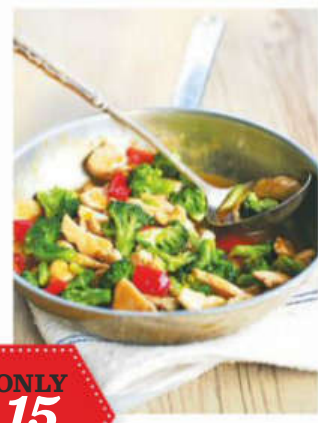
with the oil and white wine then twist up the parchment edges to seal in the fish and couscous.

4 Place on a baking tray and bake in the preheated oven for 10-15 min. Serve in the parcels at the table.

STIR-FRY LEMON CHICKEN

TAKES 20 MIN SERVES 4

★ 450g skinless chicken breasts, sliced ★ 2tbsp groundnut oil ★ 250g broccoli florets ★ 2 small red peppers, chopped ★ 4 spring onions, sliced ★ 100g unsalted cashew nuts ★ 2tbsp cornflour ★ 250ml cold water ★ 4tbsp lemon juice ★ 3tbsp honey ★ 4tbsp soy sauce ★ Rice or noodles to serve



ONLY 15 MIN

1 In a large wok, fry the chicken in the oil for 4 min over a medium to high heat until golden. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to a plate.

2 Return the pan to the heat and add the broccoli, pepper and spring onions. Stir-fry for 4 min, until softened.

3 Meanwhile, toast the cashew in a small pan over a low heat until golden and set aside.

4 Dissolve the cornflour in a bowl with 2tbsp water, then mix in the rest of the water plus the lemon juice, honey and soy sauce. Add to

the vegetables along with the cashews.

Reduce the heat, return the chicken to the pan and simmer for 3 min until it's cooked and the sauce has thickened. Serve with the rice or noodles.

Or try...

using 180g raw peeled king prawns instead of the chicken and fry for a few min until the prawns have turned pink.

Busy cook's SHOPPING LIST

Pop these ingredients into your basket and try our speedy recipes



Butternut squash, 97p



Ready-rolled puff pastry, £1.30 (375g)



Baby corn and sugarsnap medley, £1.50 (375g)



Tuxford & Tebbutt Blue Stilton, £1.75 (160g)

SQUASH & GREENS TART

TAKES 1 HR SERVES 8

Melt **1tbsp butter** in a pan, add the chopped flesh from **½ butternut squash**, cook for 10 min. Microwave a **250g pack of veg** for 3 min. Preheat oven to 200°C/Gas 6. Unroll a **320g ready-rolled puff pastry** onto a lined baking tray. Score a border and top with the veg. Sprinkle over **1tsp dried thyme** and dot with **100g blue cheese**. Bake for 40 min.

VEGGIE TREAT



5 uses for... COCONUT OIL

- 1 Replace **butter** or **margarine** with coconut oil in some baking recipes as an alternative. It will give it a lovely coconut flavour.
- 2 Jazz up **roasted sweet potato** by roasting in coconut oil and sprinkled with **paprika** and **chilli**.
- 3 Make your own vegetable crisps by using a mandolin to slice your favourite **veggies**. Place the vegetable slices onto a baking tray and brush with **coconut oil**. Season with **salt** and **pepper** and bake for 10 min at 200°C/Gas 6.
- 4 Whizz up a delicious smoothie in a flash. Pop a handful of **strawberries** and **raspberries** in a blender with **1tbsp coconut oil**, a few **ice cubes** and a little **almond milk**. Blitz until smooth.
- 5 Cook up a fragrant stir-fry by cooking **1 x 180g pack prawns** in a little **coconut oil** with **stir-fry vegetables** and **straight-to-wok noodles**. Add **1tsp grated root ginger** and **soy sauce** to taste.



Double chocolate cookies, 88p (230g)



Morello cherry fruit filling, £1.65 (370g)



Original soft cheese, £1 (300g)

CHOCOLATE CHERRY CHEESECAKE

TAKES 2 HR SERVES 10

* 300g double chocolate chip cookies * 75g butter * 2tbsp cocoa powder * 600g cream cheese * 125g caster sugar * 200ml buttermilk * 2 eggs * 4tsp vanilla extract * 3tbsp cornflour * 350g jar morello cherries, drained * Chocolate curls and buttons for decorating

1 Grease and line a 23cm spring-clip tin. Preheat oven to 150°C/Gas 2. Crush the

biscuits. Melt the butter in a pan, stir in the cocoa and the cookies. Press down into the tin. Chill.

2 Mix the cream cheese, sugar, buttermilk, eggs and vanilla. Put the cornflour into a bowl, add ⅔ of the cherries and mix. Stir into the filling. Pour over the base.

3 Put a roasting tin of hot water in the base of the oven, bake the cheesecake on the middle shelf for 1 hr 20 min. Cool for 2 hr. Serve with the cherries and chocolate decorations on top.



Be your own STAR BAKER

Get creative in the kitchen and wow guests with this stunning scene-stealer

CHIFFON CAKE

TAKES 1 HR 30 MIN SERVES 10

★ 175g strawberries, hulled ★ 250g self-raising flour ★ 1tsp baking powder ★ 6 eggs, separated ★ 125ml vegetable oil ★ Zest of 1 lemon ★ 225g caster sugar ★ Red food gel ★ Strawberry jam
FOR THE FROSTING 250g mascarpone cheese ★ Zest of 1 lemon ★ 2tbsp icing sugar ★ 400ml double cream ★ Red food gel ★ Strawberries and edible flowers to decorate

- 1** Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas 4. Grease and line 2 x 20cm tins. Puree the strawberries. Pass through a sieve.
- 2** Add the yolks, oil, zest and 175g sugar to an electric mixer. Add the puree and a little red gel, whisk for 5 min.
- 3** Whisk the egg whites until stiff, add 50g sugar, 1tsp at a time, until glossy. Fold the flour and baking powder into the puree. Fold in the egg whites.
- 4** Pour into the tins and bake for 25 min. Cool on a wire rack. Halve each cake and layer up on a plate, with jam.
- 5** For the frosting, whisk together the mascarpone, zest and icing sugar. Whisk in the cream until spreadable.
- 6** Divide into three bowls, colour one light pink, one dark pink and leave one plain. Spread plain frosting all over the cake. Dot dark pink frosting around the base. Make a second paler pink band above it and a third of plain frosting. Smooth to blend the colours. Top with edible flowers and strawberries.

**BAKE A
SPECIAL
TREAT**

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October's HOME SAVER

Our top fixes for household
dilemmas and money-saving tips

Get ready to cosy up around the fire

Sweep the chimney, scrub the hearth and clear the mantelpiece ready for winter

CLEAR THE CHIMNEY The weather may still feel reasonably warm at the moment, but ensuring that your fireplace is ready for the first cold snap of winter is essential. If you have a real fire, then you'll need to ensure the chimney and brickwork are in good working order and free from dirt and creosote. It's a good idea to call in the professionals for an annual check-over of your chimney. Search for your nearest reputable chimney sweep through the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (NACS).

FAUX FIX-UP If you have an electric fireplace, turn off your electricity and give the unit a complete inspection and check all the wires to ensure none of them are frayed or broken. If your fire is gas, make sure the vents are clear and working properly and that the components (logs, burners, liners) are not damaged, and be sure to replace any that are. Always seek professional help.

PERFECT PAINTWORK Make certain that your mantelpiece is well maintained and free from any smoke build-up or soot. Clean it with soapy water and scrub the hearth while you're at it, too, to ensure the whole surround is tip-top. If the paintwork is chipped, touch it up or give it a complete coat for a fresh new look.



HEARTH OF THE HOME
Use eye-catching furnishings to make a focal point of your fireplace

HANDY HELPERS

Put the fun back into washing-up with our pick of bright accessories



SUNNY SIDE UP

Pop this cheery flower power fence caddy by your sink to make washing up a whimsical task, £12.95, Pinkgoose.com



GLOVE LOVE

Look after your hands with these playful pink rubber gloves with pretty rose-adorned cuffs, £4.95, Dotcomgiftshop



A DOG'S LIFE

Dog lovers will adore this *Pugs not Drugs* tea towel – it'll put a smile on your face whenever it's time to dry the dishes, £11, Maiden



HALLOWEEN AT HOME MADE EASY

Turn your place into a house of horrors and celebrate the spooky season with these ideas

EERIE ENTRANCE

Stock up on pumpkins and gourds in all sorts of sizes and pop them around your front door. Carve a few (pop in some LED lights), then leave some intact for a striking feature.

GHOSTLY GALLERY

Photocopy eerie Victorian photos from old history books, place the prints in

an assortment of black frames and arrange on a shelf. Drape with cobwebs and dot a few plastic spiders about.

CHILLING PLATES

Use Sharpie marker pens to decorate the edges of plain white dinnerware with ghostly motifs. Spiders, webs, cats and witches' hats are all simple to draw and will look suitably spooky.

All in the details... WALLPAPERING SWITCHES

B&Q shows you how to paper round switches and sockets



1 Turn off the electricity. Hang the drop over the switch and brush to make an impression. Mark with a pencil from corner to corner of the faceplate. Pierce the paper in the middle, cut back the corners.



2 Trim the flaps to the outer edge of the switch or socket so there is a slight 6mm overlap covering the fitting. Partially unscrew the faceplate and pull it away from the wall.



3 Ease the faceplate through the hole without tearing the paper. Use a brush to push the edges behind the faceplate and smooth away any bubbles. Screw back in position and leave to dry.



Tweet the team at **#askSAH** with your photos, decorating dilemmas and tips.

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3 apps for... DECORATING

Need some decor inspiration? These apps will help



DULUX VISUALIZER
iOS, Android.
Free

See how a colour will look in your home with this handy app that shows the paint in the room instantly. With multiple colours to choose from, you'll find the best look for your room in no time.



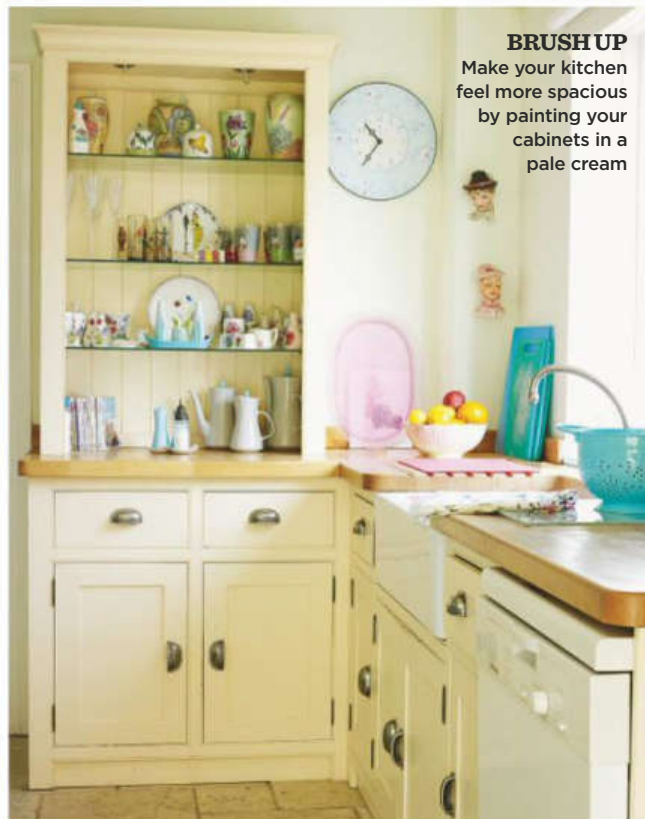
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If you need inspiration for home decorating and crafting, then Pinterest is for you. This visual bookmarking and social app is packed with creative ideas to try.



BRIGHT NEST
iOS, Android.
Free

With easy tips, a personal schedule and helpful reminders, this savvy app is a must for tackling home cleaning tasks, trying new DIY ideas and embarking on an interior makeover.



BRUSH UP

Make your kitchen feel more spacious by painting your cabinets in a pale cream

You ask us...

Q Can you give me any ideas for updating my tired-looking kitchen on a budget?

Transform your kitchen by painting the cabinets. Chalk paint (we recommend Annie Sloan Chalk Paint, £18.95 per ltr) is absolutely fantastic for big jobs like this. Choose your favourite colour and give the cupboards a quick wipe down to ensure they're free

from grease and dust. There is no need to sand, so just apply straight from the tin to the cabinets. You will need at least two coats of paint, finished with two or three coats of Annie Sloan Soft Wax, (£8.45 for 500ml tin) to seal and protect. Easy!



Easy to use

This crafty little machine will get your sewing done in a snap. Make the dreaded task of needle-threading a thing of the past with its handy threader function, and the extra-high-lift presser foot will let you sew bulky fabrics or as many layers as you need.

Toyota Eco 26C electrical sewing machine, £129.99, Argos

SUITS
ALL
AGES

Speed machine

From hemming trousers to knocking up a cushion cover, this'll get the job done with speed and ease. This strong and efficient machine also features a handy drop-in bobbin system, and its 25 different stitches are clearly displayed on the front panel.

Brother AE2500 sewing machine, £159.99, Amazon



Get ready, STEADY, SEW

If you're confused by shopping for a sewing machine, check out our pick of the best buys!

Before parting with your cash, think about what you'll need the sewing machine for, and how often you'll use it. There are so many models to choose from, with basic mechanical and electrical machines featuring as few as 10 different stitches, and computerised ones with as many as 300. For repairs, dressmaking and crafts, a simple, inexpensive machine will be suitable. A model with a wider range of stitches, feet and features will have a bigger price tag, but will be better for embroidery, quilting, curtain-making and upholstery. If you'll only use it occasionally for the odd repair or project, there's little point splashing out on a top-of-the-range model, but it's a good idea to invest in the best you can afford.



For beginners

Feel inspired to sew but haven't dabbled before? Choose this entry-level machine that's fun and easy. With a time-saving automatic needle threader and 21 different stitches, it's fully equipped with everything you need to climb the needlecraft ladder.

Singer 3221 Simple sewing machine, £189, John Lewis



Multi-tasker

With a pretty, fluttering, red floral motif on its façade, this simple sewing machine can help you create patchwork quilts, bedspreads and even take on the delicate task of lace application if required! It features 14 pre-set stitches and four different feet, including ones for buttonholes, zippers, zigzags and blind hems.

Janome 3300 sewing machine, £89, Hobbycraft

WORDS SUZIE ATTAWAY



Does it all

This Rolls Royce of sewing machines is fully automatic and features a whopping 225 stitches! We particularly love the built-in alphanumeric stitches, which allow you to personalise any project with a monogram, name or phrase.

Singer 7470 computerised sewing machine, £329.99, Tesco



Extra wide

Bursting with oodles of stitch options, this lightweight machine features an easy-to-read LCD control panel and an extra-wide table for quilting and dressmaking. It's also very portable, so perfect for sewing classes and, thanks to its slide speed control, it can be operated without a foot pedal.

Brother FS70 sewing machine, £299, Very



FLOWER POWER



Good for basics

Perfect if you sew as a hobby or occasionally mend clothes, this colourful little machine features 14 basic stitch options and will create a buttonhole in four simple steps. Shown here in dusky pink, it's also available in watermelon, red, berry and retro blue.

JL110 sewing machine, £99, John Lewis

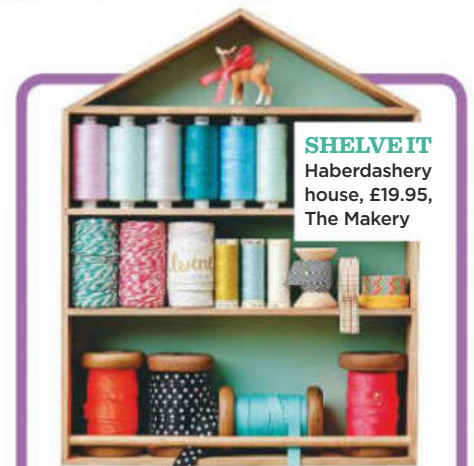


SUITS ALL FABRIC

Super stitch

Suitable for use on all types of material and with 60 different stitches to choose from, you really are spoiled for choice with this quality Swiss-made sewing machine. Along with repairs, it's a whizz with cushions, curtains and more advanced creative projects, and has a handy built-in storage facility.

Elna experience 620 sewing machine, £499, John Lewis



SHELVE IT
Haberdashery house, £19.95, The Makery

5 sewing ACCESSORIES

Stock up on these essentials

PRETTY IN PINK

Rose & Butler sewing basket, £19.99, Amazon



CUT ABOVE

Little Leaves scissors, £8, Cath Kidston



SEW CUTE

Mini tape measure, £2.95, Dotcomgiftshop



PUPPY LOVE

Sausage Dog pincushion, £8, Cath Kidston



THIS MONTH'S *Love it*

Give your dining table a natural feel with leaf prints on linens, simple white crockery and recycled glass vases. If you have a wood-topped dining table, do away with a tablecloth and show off its rustic finish.

Mismatched dining chairs
add to the relaxed feel



Stylists at Home



JILL SAYS

'This table would look fantastic in the garden, too. I'd set it with mismatched floral crockery to carry on the garden theme.'

Style *at Home*

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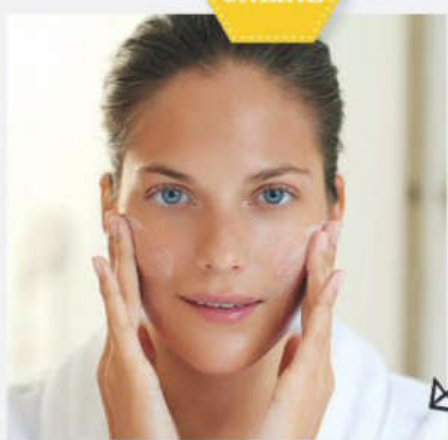


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Style *at Home*

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The home stylist

A SPECIAL TREAT FOR THE WEEKEND



Hello,

Bring the outdoors into your home and fill your bedroom with plants. Geometric bedding and soft furnishings are so on trend this year, so be sure to introduce them to your decorating scheme. If you're looking for decor inspiration, check out the quaint cottage below, and don't forget to send us snaps of your own home – we'd love to see! This weekend, give your kitchen a little lift with our crafty makes then have a go at making a delicious Pimm's fruit salad!

Love, the *Style at Home* team



Peek inside this cute cottage Easy DIY kitchen projects



Take a look inside this beautiful home – it has bunting, exposed brickwork, vintage dressers, retro accessories and the most delightful duck-egg blue colour scheme.



Have a go at our pretty kitchen craft projects and give your space a quick update. These cute coasters are easy to create and make a lovely gift, too.

Sign up free! at housetohome.co.uk/thehomestylist

SPECIAL OFFERS

Colourful blooms

Plan ahead and position these plants now so they are ready for spring



Giant Delphiniums



Vyvyan Pennell

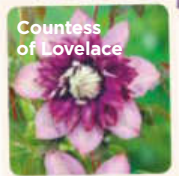
Long-flowering Clematis

Buy 6 for half price, saving £30

The Clematis Shikoo, Vyvyan Pennell and Countess of Lovelace are beautiful flowers, which begin to bloom in April, measuring up to 20cm in height. As the summer season continues, they transform from beautiful double flowers into wonderful single blooms in fantastic pink and purple shades. Perfect for those with limited space, they flower from May to June and August to September. All supplied in 7cm pots. Height 1.2m.



Shikoo



Countess of Lovelace

Giant Delphiniums

In a range of beautiful colours
to brighten up your garden

Transform your garden with a stream of colour and plant these gorgeous Giant Delphiniums, which come in a variety of shades. Flowering from June, they will tower over your garden year after year for a gorgeous display. Plant them in pots or in borders and fill your garden with a pop of colour. They also make great floral displays when cut and shown off in a decorative vase. Maximum height is 2m and spread is 40cm. Supplied as young plants in 14 days.

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ROSH15-36PTCL01	Clematis Countess of Lovelace x 1	£10	1	
ROSH15-36PTCC03	3 Re-blooming Clematis (1 of each) Save £12	£18	3	
ROSH15-36PTCC09	6 Re-blooming Clematis (2 of each) Save £30	£24	6	
ROSH15-36YPDM06	Giant Delphiniums Mix (2 of each)	£11	6	
ROSH15-36YPDM12	Giant Delphiniums Mix SAVE £10 (4 of each)	£12	12	
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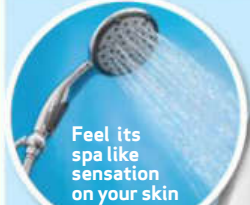
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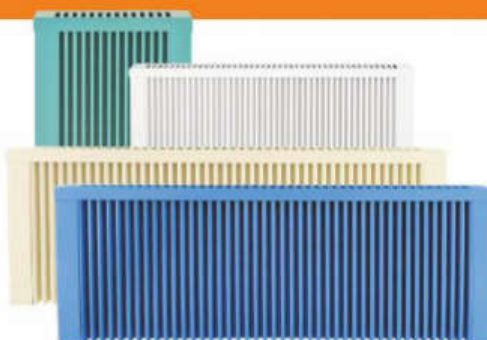
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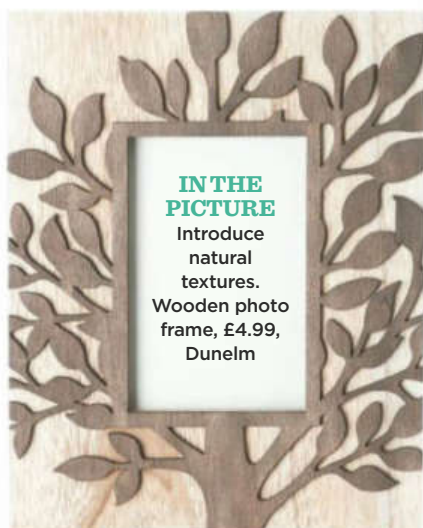
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